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Palestinian Affairs

The 12-member Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks arrived in Amman on 8 January en route to Washington, Amman radio reported. In a statement made prior to the delegation's departure for Amman, spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said Palestinian negotiators are determined to engage in direct bilateral negotiations with the Israelis on "issues of substance" and that the delegation was "dutybound" to bring up the subject of deportations, Jerusalem radio noted.

Israel

Israel does not accept the idea that Jews would conceivably not be allowed to live in certain areas of "the land of Israel," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated. Speaking at a meeting with U.S. Republican Senator Phil Gramm, Shamir expressed confidence that Washington is prepared to extend loan guarantees to Israel for the purpose of absorbing new immigrants, Jerusalem radio reported. However, "there is no way" to ensure that the U.S. funds will not be used to further "development beyond the Green Line," a YEDI'OT AHARONOT report noted.

Iraq

UN restrictions on Baghdad's oil imports constitute "interference" in Iraq's internal affairs, the oil minister asserted. In an interview granted to AL-JUMHURIYAH ahead of his planned talks with UN officials in Vienna, the minister accused Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates of flooding the market with oil, and said he hoped that "logic and wisdom" will prevail at the Vienna meeting.

Lebanon

Foreign Minister Fariz Buwayz announced that the delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks will leave for Washington on 9 January, Beirut Voice of Lebanon reported. Commenting on the UN Security Council's resolution condemning Israel's bid to deport 12 Palestinians, Buwayz called the unanimous vote "honorable," adding that the UN decision ended Beirut's "reservations" about participating in the Washington talks.

Iran

The UN permanent representative has denied reports published in the LOS ANGELES TIMES alleging that Tehran has purchased nuclear weapons from the former Soviet republics. In a statement cited by IRNA, the UN envoy accused the article of playing up to "public hysteria" and questioned the credibility of its sources.

Kuwait

Journalists here urged the country's leaders to drop press censorship in exchange for a self-imposed code of conduct. At a 5 January meeting with local media representatives, Prime Minister Sa'ad said censorship was necessary because of the "exceptional" circumstances prevailing in the emirate, AFP noted.

Saudi Arabia-Syria

The joint Saudi-Syrian Committee for Bilateral Cooperation issued a joint communique at the conclusion of its sessions in Riyadh on 7 January, Riyadh television reported. The communique noted both countries' desire to expand cooperation, expressed support for the Middle East peace process, and characterized their meetings as having taken place in an atmosphere of "frankness, trust, and amity," according to the television.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Condemns 'Hostile' Israeli Policy

NC0701142292 Cairo MENA in English 1312 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, Jan 7 (MENA)—The Arab League permanent committee for human rights condemned the hostile policy pursued by the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied Arab lands.

In a statement issued today the committee denounced the inhuman repressive acts committed by Israel against the Palestinians, the last of which [was] the deportation of 12 Palestinians.

These practices constitute a flagrant violation of the simplest human rights principles and international codes notably Geneva convention.

Such Israeli practices would undermine the peace efforts, the statement added.

Arab League Chief on 'Concern' Over Somalia

EA0601195592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1635 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Jan (SUNA)—The Arab League secretary general, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, has affirmed the concern of the League with the incidents in Somalia and called for an immediate halting to the fighting there to pave the way for a national reconciliation.

Following a meeting here Monday [6 January] with Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, 'Abd-al-Majid indicated that a decision on the conflict in Somalia was issued by the Arab League yesterday and a ministerial committee in which Sudan was included will meet at the League headquarters in Cairo next week.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he discussed with Sudanese Foreign Minister Sahlul the general Arab situations and the Arab joint action.

The Arab League secretary-general arrived here Monday to attend the periodical meeting of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development.

Libya's al-Kharrubi Meets Arab League Chief

LD0601101292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan, (JANA)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi met with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, at the League headquarters in Cairo last night . During the meeting, which was attended by the brother delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah to the Arab League, they discussed the steps taken by the Arab League in connection with its resolution supporting the Great Jamahiriyah in facing the fabricated U.S. and British allegations.

The secretary general of the Arab League expressed his profound appreciation of the objective policy and civilized stand with which the Great Jamahiriyah faced the U.S. and British allegations out of its concern to reveal the truth and out of its commitment to international laws and conventions.

Libyan League Envoy Welcomes UN Support

LD0701182892 Tripoli JANA in English 1611 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, Ay-Annar [January] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH News Agency—The Libyan delegate to the Arab league Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki declared that Libya "welcomes the setting up of an international commission by the United Nations Security Council to investigate the accusations fabricated by America against Libya regarding the Pan Am aircraft incident which occured over Scotland in 1988. [no end quotes as received]

In remarks to journalists after attending a meeting between Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi with the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak yesterday, Dr. al-Turayki recalled that "Libya has already requested the Security Council of the United Nations to investigate these accusations and if the aim of the forthcoming meeting of the council is to investigate these accusations that will be a good action and meet Libya's requests."

Jallud Speaks at AMU Council Opening Session

LD0601100292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 2 Jan (JANA)—Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud attended the opening session of the third ordinary meeting of the Aran Maghreb Union [AMU] Consultative Council whose proceedings started yesterday evening at the hall of conferences in al-Mahari Hotel in Tripoli. [passage omitted]

Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud made a speech during the opening session of the proceedings in which he stressed the importance of the AMU Consultative Council as an institution which comes third in the order of AMU institutions. He said that this council can play a very important role in the march of the Arab Maghreb toward comprehensive Arab unity. He indicated that Arab unity is a lifebelt for the Arab nation and for achieving the hopes of our masses for freedom, democracy, and progress.

Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud called on the AMU Consultative Council to take daring initiatives and said that these initiatives should come from the masses and from the strugglers who fought against colonization in the Arab Maghreb countries so that a single state is established in this part of the large Arab homeland. [passage omitted]

Staff Major Jallud expressed hope that the AMU agreement will be developed and that it will be given political, economic, cultural, and even military dimensions, and that

young people in the Arab Maghreb will be allowed to play their role in the political system and continue on the path of the achievement of true democracy. [passage omitted]

For their part other speakers expressed their full support and solidarity with the Libyan Arab people in the face of fabricated British and American allegations, and praised the objective policy and civilized stand with which the Great Jamahiriyah faced the campaign of U.S. and British allegations out of its concern for the truth to be revealed and out of its commitment to international laws and conventions.

Session Continues 6 Jan

LD0701103692 Tripoli JANA in English 0819 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, Ay Annar [January] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Arab Maghreb Union's [AMU] Consultative Council resumed its meetings of its third ordinary session yesterday in Tripoli for the second consecutive day. The morning session was addressed by the secretary general of the union Mohammed Amamau highlighting the activities and the progress during last year. He referred to the meetings and contacts which took place between the Arab Maghreb Union and the five European Community countries of the Western Mediterranean asserting in this respect that the Arab Maghreb Union was considered as one unit and that no one can communicate with any international side except within the framework of the Arab Maghreb Union.

The speakers who witnessed the session reaffirmed their unlimited solidarity with the people of Great Jamahiriya against the fabricated allegations made by America and Britain. They stressed the need to confront any attempt to undermine the Arab Maghreb Union.

The morning session set up in number of specialised committee's including the committee for economy, finance, planning and food security, the committee for legal affairs, the committee of man power, the committee of infrastructure and the committee of political affairs. The committees were due to study and discuss a number of proposals and recommendations to be submitted to the Council during a general session last night.

Iraqi Official Speaks to Arab Interior Ministers

JN0401173192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1313 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Tunis, 4 Jan (INA)—Shabib al-Maliki, minister of justice and head of the Iraqi delegation to the ninth session of the council of Arab interior ministers, has said that solidarity and cooperation under the critical circumstances, which the Arab nation is experiencing, should enable it to stand against the challenges it faces.

Delivering Iraq's speech at the meetings of the council of Arab interior ministers today, al-Maliki said that cohesion, unity, and cooperation among the Arab countries should ensure the spreading of an atmosphere of security and stability across the Arab homeland, confronting serious criminal phenomena, and fighting social ills which are gnawing away at the fabric of Arab society. He noted that fighting all forms of crime in Arab society requires the fortification of its individuals with spiritual, ethical, and moral values, as well as their adherence, before anything else, to the values of true Islam to prevent the influence of suspect intellectual waves and devious behavioral patterns.

The minister of justice warned of the seriousness of this decisive stage in the history of our Arab nation, against which the powers of evil and aggression, represented by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist coalition, are collaborating.

He added: As this loathsome aggressive coalition continues to impose its inhuman siege against the Arab people of Iraq and deprive them of food and medicine, thus causing the death of tens of thousands of children and sick and elderly people, it never stops providing the Zionist entity with all the means of power and survival.

Iraq called on the council of Arab interior ministers to adopt a brave and unified Arab position to break the unfair economic siege against Iraq, warning of the consequences of a passive stand vis-a-vis this siege on the Arab nation, and of all the serious results that would affect the Arab nation's integrity and unity.

The council opened its three-day ninth session yesterday.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi—Deportation Issue Will Be Raised

TA0801122492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] The Palestinian delegates, advisers, and administrators—a total of about 40 persons—headed by Dr. Sari Nusaybah convened this morning at the home of the leader of the territories Palestinians, Faysal al-Husayni, although the latter is in Stockholm at the moment. This time, the delegation boasts several new activists, including former terrorist Ahmad Shraym from Qalqilyah, who has spent 21 years behind the bars of an Israeli prison. He was included in the delegation as the deputy of Dr. Sari Nusaybah, head of the supreme political committee in the territories.

Delegation spokesperson Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinians are leaving for talks with Israel with the knowledge that this time the talks will deal with substance, not procedure.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording, in English] We are going to Amman today, and hopefully to Washington tomorrow, and we are determined to engage in direct bilateral negotiations with the Israelis on issues of substance. The issue of deportation has delayed our trip and the trip of the other Arab

delegations. There is a position by all the Arab delegations that this violation and other...[end recording]

We agree that these and other violations must stop, noted Dr. 'Ashrawi. Asked whether deportations will be raised at the talks with the Israeli delegation, Dr. 'Ashrawi stressed that the Palestinian delegation is duty-bound to discuss that issue with the Israelis.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording, in English] The deportation issue will have to be raised, as will the settlement question. All those things will have to be raised at every step, at every stage. [end recording]

[A similar report by territories correspondent Udi Segal on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 8 January includes an English-language recording of Hanan 'Ashrawi's remarks prior to departure for Amman: "I heard that Israel has accepted negotiations on two tracks and will negotiate with the Palestinians on issues that pertain to the Palestinians. We are willing to have either a meeting of the three [delegation] heads, after which we break up into two tracks, or a limited meeting of both delegations with the Israelis, after which we will break up." The report continues by saying that 'Ashrawi believes "next week's talks in Washington will be held separately with the Palestinian delegation on the one hand and the Jordanian delegation on the other, with a token representation of the other delegation in each of the two conference rooms."]

Delegation Preparing To Travel to Washington

JN0701165192 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] A spokesman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations has said that members of the delegation are preparing to leave for Washington now that the Security Council has condemned the Zionist entity's decision to deport 12 citizens from the occupied Palestinian territories. The Arab countries participating in the peace talks had put off the departure of their delegations until the Security Council adopted a strong position on the Zionist entity's step.

Delegates Depart for Amman 8 Jan

NC0801100892 Paris AFP in English 0933 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Jan 8 (AFP)—A 12-member Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks Wednesday left the occupied territories for Jordan on its way to Washington, Palestinian sources here said.

The team will link up in Amman with the Jordanian negotiators, with whom they form a joint delegation to the Middle East peace process.

Palestinian lawyer Furayh Abu-Middyan will not be part of the trip because he is staying home to prepare for the defense of 12 Palestinian militants who are being deported from the occupied territories by Israel.

Mustafa al-Natshah, another member of the Palestinian delegation, will also be staying home for personal reasons, the sources said, adding that 20 assistants will take part in the trip. [passage omitted]

Deportation Measure 'Declaration of War' on Talks

JN0701194792 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Article by the political editor of the PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY-WAFA: "Expulsion or Declaration of War?"]

[Text] Peace cannot be built on illusions and arrogance. The region could remain in a state of confusion and tension and a threat to world security and peace for many more decades. By all criteria, it has been proven that, when faced with a process it does not want, Israel invents battles and events in an attempt to provoke one party after another in order to burden them with the responsibility of failure. Israel, which for over 40 years has been waging all its information, political, and military battles under the slogan that its hand is extended for peace and that the Arabs want war to throw it into the sea, is now finding itself besieged by this same slogan which it has long been consecrating over the years. Therefore, it wants to free itself by means of shocks, either under the pretext that a meeting in Washington does not suit it for ceremonial reasons, or by seizing Palestinian land, instigating the settlers, besieging Palestinian towns, villages, and camps, and practicing the ugliest forms of terrorism against them.

Israel is also doing that by deportation. Under ordinary circumstances, the deportation measure could be a very dangerous step, but when taken on the eve of preparations to resume the bilateral talks or negoatiations, it assumes great importance.

We may find ourselves forced to acknowledge a number of facts, the most important of which is that the special and distinctive historical relationship between Israel and the United States is more important than all the U.S. relationships with the Arabs, including the new Arabs who allied with the United States in waging a war against an Arab nation, Iraq, under the slogan of saving another Arab country; namely, Kuwait. Yet, the basic objective was to serve the interests of the United States itself, which did not (?deceive us) despite its upholding of slogans of international legitimacy, and the principles of justice and human rights.

Despite this, and despite our admission, we thought that the United States, which risked a third world war in order to implement international legitimacy, would not risk such a war because of the Arab alliance with it. We thought it would implement the glaring international legitimacy by applying political, economic, and media pressures, not by war. Imagination does not stretch that far. Peace however deserves such an effort and capability to apply pressure. Instead of this, however, we find that the United States retreats each time Israel exercises pressure and not the opposite.

We wonder whether the peace process is facing success or reaching an impasse. Hence, the Arab position represented by waiting and postponing the delegations' departures in response to the deportation decision, was a necessary and essential issue. The Arabs, who until now have avoided a unified Arab position for fear of provoking the anger of the United States or as an expression of good will, are finding themselves confronting an Israeli bulldozer which is exercising the utmost pressure before it starts talking about the procedural obstacles which the Israeli delegation is placing one after another.

This joint Arab position should be strengthened. Peace does not concern one party and exclude the other. Peace does not take a correct path if it is bilateral. It should include everybody. Everyone is threatened by war and by being devoured by the Zionist state's plans or with the state of Greater Israel. This means that they are exactly like the Palestinians, not because there is no difference between the present and next occupation—it is only a matter of time. Therefore, the blind political process does not seem to heed warnings. It lives its day without any future vision. This process is required to be far-sighted and to examine issues. Before all this, the United States, Russia, Europe, the United Nations, and the Security Council are called on to be far-sighted too. Israel's actions are not just an expulsion of a certain number of Palestinians, but it is a declaration of war against the bilateral and multilateral talks and against the entire peace process both before and after Madrid.

Commentary: Postponement Not Withdrawal From Talks

LD0801112192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The daily realities which are taking place in the occupied territories on one hand and the declared stances of the Israeli Government toward the peace process as a whole on the other, including the refusal to stop settlement or freeze it and the rejection of the international conception of Resolution 242 and making the concept of self-rule devoid of any essential political substance create new realities which cannot be ignored or overlooked. This is even so particularly that what is happening is not far from the sight and hearing of the U.S. Administration which has not moved an inch up to now despite the many promises which it has made with regard to its participation in an active and effective way in the peace process. These realities which eliminated the atmosphere of optimism have created more feelings of frustration on the Palestinian side. The latter cannot in anyway betray itself particularly sincew the talks about peace and what is taking place in reality are worlds apart.

Postponing the Palestinian delegation's trip to Washington, which came as a result of accumulated events—which have continued since the Madrid conference—cannot be explained as a Palestinian withdrawal from the peace process. The Palestinian side has confirmed its sincere eagerness to seek and achieve peace and is the side which suffers most from the continuation of the absence of peace. Seeking real and just peace requires one today to get out of the dilemma of standing still and solve the contradiction between the wish to achieve peace and the current realities which are in contradiction with this wish and constitute real obstacles which threaten the peace process.

We believe that getting out of this critical situation remains the mission of the two states which are the cosponsors of the peace conference particularly the United States. This mission will constitute a criterion of credibility and seriousness in seeking real peace.

Algeria

FLN Secretary General Discusses Election Results

LD0701155792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] In the heat of the electoral campaign of the second round set for 16 January, Abdelhamid Mehri, National Liberation Front [FLN] secretary general, held a news conference at the El Djazair Hotel in Algiers this morning. The news conference was attended by Algerian journalists and representatives of the foreign press accredited to Algeria and those sent especially to cover the general elections. Channel 1 of the radio service was represented by our colleague Mohamed Chellouche, who prepared this report for us:

[Chellouche] The following important observations came from the first reading of the contents of the news conference held by Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri: First, it is necessary that everyone contributes to consolidating the democratic process, and this concerns all the dynamic forces in the country. Mr. Mehri believes that the stage is crucial and fraught with dangers; therefore, he said, we will not justify the call for an obstruction of the democratic process by boycotting the elections or causing confusion and by mounting the horse of fear. On the contrary, the current stage requires that everybody is made aware of the need to ensure the success of the democratic process and to go ahead with the second round of elections.

The second observation that can be drawn from the news conference is the call for the need to establish a balance in the next parliament. Mr. Mehri focused on this point in his introduction and also in his replies to journalists' questions. The FLN secretary general said in this respect that the absence of balance in the next National People's Assembly will not serve democracy and cannot resolve the country's problems.

Some of the other observations which caught the attention of those following the news conference concern the position of the FLN. In this respect, Mr. Mehri said that the strength of the FLN in society is still there, but this was not reflected in the results of the first round of elections. He added that this was due to several reasons, including the fact that a large number of citizens—over 900,000—did not obtain their electoral cards, in addition to the fact that nearly 1 million ballots were spoiled and that the public administration did not take all measures and did not make all arrangements to guarantee the right of every registered citizen to cast his or her vote. As a result, many citizens, especially women, particularly in the Higher Plateaux region, were deprived of identity cards.

There was another factor which had a major effect, and this I will include in my fourth observation. This concerns the failure of political discourse, both for the regime and those linked to the regime, to polarize public opinion in favor of the FLN program. Mr. Mehri adds to this the fact that the FLN was being attacked from all sides, even by some officials within the government.

The last observation which we think stood out in Mr. Mehri's news conference concerns the moves made by some who expressed reservations about the results of the first round of elections and their concern about the political future. Although Mr. Mehri regarded such moves as one of the legitimate forms of expression, he did, however, reject some positions, particularly those calling for a boycott of the second round of the general elections.

[Announcer] Our colleague Hamza Walid also attended the news conference, and he prepared this report for us:

[Walid] There is no need to panic and no need to mount the horse of intimidation. This was the expression used by Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri at the news conference he held at the El Djazair Hotel this morning. In the introduction, Mr. Mehri dealt with the questions raised in the country, after the results of the first round were announced, about the fate of the democratic process and the possibilities available for Algeria's development.

He added that despite these issues, there is no need to panic because the problems are difficult in themselves and the issues raised are a cause for concern. Therefore, the situation must be faced with a degree of commitment to enable the Algerian people to continue the democratic change with sufficient awareness of the main issues confronting the country, as he put it.

Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri emphasized that the FLN is determined to continue its work to complete the election process and to take part in the second round. He called on all Algerians to contribute to build this democratic future and to mobilize themselves to ensure the success of the election process so as to establish a balance in the next National People's Assembly between the various political forces.

As for the results of the first round of elections, according to Mr. Mehri these results do not reflect the real standing of the FLN in the national political arena. He added that the more honest the representation, the more effective the expression. To that end, the FLN secretary general asked the media representatives, and particularly Algerians, to contribute to strengthening the real democratic process and not to indulge in superficial reactions which do not serve the national interest.

Afterward, Mr. Mehri took questions from Algerian and foreign journalists which focused on various issues, including that of a coalition, contacts, the results of the first round, and his forecast for the second round. At first Mr. Mehri denied any contacts or agreements with any political formation, but he admitted that the nature of politics in a democratic system requires contacts and consultations, especially after elections. As for the cleanness or noncleanness of the elections, Mr. Mehri said that the FLN abided by all rules and all precepts which make for fair elections, but he wondered about the arrangements made by the government to guarantee the

fairness of these elections, adding that the government is responsible not only for the behavior of the public administration but also for providing all conditions to ensure that the elections are clean and fair.

He went on to say that there was a shortcoming in this respect, and he pointed to the electoral cards which did not reach their owners, and also the voting method which led to the invalidation of nearly 1 million votes. As for the results of the first round, Mr. Mehri regards them as very positive for the FLN considering the campaign launched against it in the past ("six) months.

As for the creation of the Committee for the Safeguarding o' Algeria, he said that he did not agree with it when it called for the cancelation of the second round of elections. He added that the creation of this committee expressed real dangers to all sections of society.

In reply to a question on the possibility of coexistence with the FIS should it win a majority, Mr. Mehri said that the FLN is always at the service of the Algerian people and that if they ask for coexistence, so be it, and if they ask it to be in opposition, so be it.

As for the FLN's stand on the second round, Mr. Mehri said that the FLN would endeavor to create some sort of balance in parliament. In his view, this would be in the interest of the people and in the interest of safeguarding the democratic process.

FIS 'Exhibition' Details Political Program

NC0701164292 Paris AFP in English 1628 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Algiers, Jan 7 (AFP)—An Islamic state should "promote the faith at home and abroad through persuasion and might," according to posters for the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which won the first round of Algeria's general election. The posters, on display Tuesday at a FIS exhibition here, call for the application of the Islamic penal code, including the amputation of hands for thieves and stoning for adulterers.

The exhibition was seen as a presentation of the political programme of the FIS, which took 188 of 430 parliamentary seats in the first round of Algeria's first multiparty general elections last month. Posters said that the head of state should be a Muslim "sound in mind and body," co-opted to office after consultations among theologians and elders, to "watch over the internal and external security of state, the protection of its religion and the spreading of the faith."

In economic terms, the FIS would adopt centralised management to prevent "illegal activity in trade and industry," with fixed wages and prices and a redistribution of wealth from the rich to the needy.

Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary-general of the formerly sole, ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), called Tuesday on Algerians to "restore the balance" in parliament in the second round of the elections slated for January 16. First round results, in which the FLN won just 15 seats, did not "reflect political reality in Algeria," Mehri said. [passage omitted]

Ait Ahmed Expects Democrats To Improve Showing

LD0801095892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front, believes that the second round [of elections] offers better chances for the democrats. He told the newspaper LE SOIR that he expects the Islamic Salvation Front to have a majority in the parliament but without a two-thirds majority.

Hocine Ait Ahmed also said he is not calling for early presidential elections, and he announced his intention to launch a campaign against political speeches in mosques and the use of loudspeakers to call the faithful to prayers.

Islamic Call Leader Comments on 'Large Victory'

LD0801101792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] This evening national radio received a statement from the Islamic Call League, which is chaired by Cheikh Ahmed Sahnoun.

After noting the large victory achieved by the Algerian people in the first round of elections, the statement called on citizens and all institutions and bodies to cease particularly bickering and tampering with the sacred things of the nation and its constants, to protect the choice of the people, and to preserve the security of the country and people by sparing lives. Cheikh Sahnoun's statement concluded by calling on everyone not to yield to the conspiracies of opportunists and the schemes of the enemies of the people and religion such as the Jews, the Christians, and their agents.

Council Sets Regulations on Invalid Ballots

LD0701143892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] The Algerian press agency has reported that the Constitutional Council has made a number of rules defining cases when ballots are declared void, in anticipation of the second round of the general elections due to be held on 16 January. The Constitutional Council, which was enlarged to include 16 experts from the Supreme Court, is conducting an in-depth investigation of invalid ballots from the first round of elections.

The same source pointed to the discrepancy in the reports of the electoral commissions, namely between the number of voters and the number of votes cast. It seems that in most cases there are nearly 1 million spoiled ballots, but these were considered as cast votes. As a result, the calculations were upset and the facts were altered [as heard].

As for the complaints of irregularities, the source indicated that the Constitutional Council will intervene, after official notification, to monitor the contradictory measures [as heard]. The role of the council will be to decide on the allegations made by any party. These complaints concern the major electoral constituencies in which National Liberation Front and Islamic Salvation Front candidates are competing in the runoff.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Peace Process, Economic Reforms

NC0401210392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1627 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that Egypt's greatness has always been represented in the creative abilities of its intellectuals, scientists, and writers, as well as the ability of its press and the contributions of its people. Speaking at a meeting today with writers, intellectuals, and thinkers following his tour of the Cairo international book fair, President Mubarak said: These are the components that we must make the best use of to build a better future for Egypt.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated after the three-hour meeting that President Mubarak at the beginning of the meeting expressed his best wishes that 1992 will be a good year and that he hoped production and activity will increase for the good of Egypt. The information minister said that President Mubarak, as usual every year, held a frank dialogue with the writers, intellectuals, and journalists.

Asked about a conflict between the government and the World Bank to prevent the bank from interfering in price increases and whether there will be an increase in the prices of basic commodities such as gasoline, President Mubarak explained that this may have been reiterated but that actually there has been no conflict between the government and the World Bank, and that there will be no gasoline price increases at present.

The president noted that an increase may take place between May and July this year as part of the clear agreement signed with the international organization.

Al-Sharif added that President Mubarak explained the economic reform policy and visible and invisible subsidies provided in the budget for many commodities. He explained that this has caused a big increase in consumption, which could have constituted revenue through exports.

President Mubarak also explained that the budget deficit totals 14 billion pounds. He explained the economic reform plan which is taking place gradually. He also noted that the increase in the prices of some goods takes place following careful studies and on a gradual basis. He said that the prices for kerosene and diesel oil have been increased according to this reform plan. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak noted that the economic reform is taking place amid an alarming increase in population which reached 13 million in the past 10 years. The president commented on this, saying: "I am very concerned about the future of the coming generations if this population increase continues at this high rate." President Mubarak noted that the only way to meet the challenge is to increase production and to tackle the problem of population growth. He said that gradual economic reforms will eventually achieve stability and balance between wages and prices. [passage omitted]

In his dialogue with the writers, journalists, and intellectuals, President Mubarak noted that it has become clear to the Arab nation that it has lagged behind in the peace process. Had it started the peace process with Egypt and the parties attended the Mena House conference, the situation would have changed. He said that by being late in appreciating the progressive steps taken by the late President Anwar al-Sadat—who was ahead of his time—the Arab nation is today suffering from broad negative effects in reaching an agreement. President Mubarak explained that he and every Egyptian citizen harbor respect and appreciation for the late President Anwar al-Sadat.

President Mubarak again spoke about the graduation in economic reforms. He noted that the increase in the price of some goods was the least that can be done within the framework of the economic reform policy. [passage omitted]

Asked about the situation in Algeria and [words indistinct] the Arab world and the democracy which is being exercised without limits and which is used to overstep [words indistinct] President Mubarak said that Algeria is a fraternal and friendly country and that we hope it will play its role through democratic means. He said that we in Egypt are proceeding on the path of democracy. We are fully aware of democratic development and believe that the people, society, and the parties are able to carry out their role in defending democracy and will not allow its exploitation to undermine what has already been achieved.

Asked whether there is an Arab position regarding the multilateral negotiations on the Middle East, President Mubarak said that the multilateral negotiations are important because they represent a broad international forum for many countries to state their views. He added that the Arab participation will be effective through coordination. There will be a chance for the Arab states to explain Arab issues and Arab views.

President Mubarak affirmed in this regard that the participation in the multilateral negotiations does not mean (?making) any concessions. It is an indication of the determination to pursue a peaceful solution. He said that this is linked to what progress can be achieved in the bilateral negotiations.

Asked whether the United States has made suitables effort to solve the Middle East issue, President Mubarak explained that the United States has made a large effort to bring the various parties together and to solve the

problems that faced the convening of the peace conference. He said we must take all this into consideration in view of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

President Mubarak said that what remains is for the Arabs to be armed with determination to continue on the way to achieving their legitimate rights. The Arabs should also be flexible, taking into consideration the international changes and their effects on the cause of peace. He added that the course of a peaceful solution is the soundest one and that we must not ignore the effects of public opinion on the progress of the talks. [passage omitted]

Security Official Criticizes Israeli Deportations

NC0401221492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Dr. Mufid Shihab, head of the Arab and International Affairs and National Security Committee of the Consultative Council, has told the radio correspondent that Israel's expulsion of 12 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, under the pretext that they killed a Jew there, is unjust and illegal. It contradicts the Geneva human rights convention.

He said that they could have been tried. He clarified that this decision is part and parcel of the provocative practices that Israel is carrying out to place a new obstacle in the way of peace. He pointed out that Israel is proceeding along two courses: working to thwart the peace conference, and also a scheme to make the peace process crawl at a snail's pace and not realize any positive results.

He said this does not mean that the Arab reaction should be a withdrawal. But the Arabs must persist and cling to the peace process, as well as continue along this course.

Commentary Scores Israeli Deportation; Urges Talks

NC0401151592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Does Israel Really Want Peace?"]

[Text] Does Israel really want to establish peaceful coexistence with the Arabs? Are the Israeli rulers really seeking to establish the just peace in the Middle East that is being sought by the Arabs and the entire world for the benefit of all the peoples of the region, including the Palestinian and Israeli peoples? Or does Israel want to reaffirm that it was forced to participate in the Madrid conference to avoid international embarrassment and to avoid angering the U.S. Administration to gain time to impose the fait accompli on all? These are some of the questions being asked today by political observers and analysts all over the world following Israel's action the day before yesterday, and just a few days before the start of the new round of bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington. We are referring here to its decision to deport 12 Palestinians following the murder of a Jewish settler near Dayr al-Balah, in the occupied Gaza Strip.

It is strange that this action by the Israeli authorities should come at a time when the Arab delegations were actually preparing to leave for Washington. This confirms that Israel wants to place new obstacles to foil this new round of bilateral negotiations even before it had started. Israel is not satisfied with the attempts it made during the previous round to obstruct the negotiations by engaging in sterile arguments about procedural matters to prevent the negotiators from beginning concrete discussions about the peace process, considering that the Palestinian issue is the essence of such a process.

Israel's decision to deport a number of Palestinians from their homes is illegal, violates international laws, totally contradicts the spirit of the peace process, could obstruct the bilateral negotiations, casts doubt on Israel's intentions, and creates an atmosphere of distrust between the Arab-Palestinian and Israeli sides. This Israeli decision constitutes a flagrant challenge to the entire international community and the peace-loving forces in the world, which have been strongly shocked by this aggressive action. This perhaps explains the wide-scale international condemnation of the decision to deport the Palestinians. The United States has strongly condemned the Israeli decision. In an unusually strongly worded statement, the State Department spokesman said: We have called on Israel, at the highest levels, to reconsider and cancel this decision. He said that Washington is opposed to the deportation because it violates the Fourth Geneva Convention. The United States urged the Palestinian delegation to come to Washington to resume the peace talks.

France and Britain also condemned the deportation decision. The British Foreign Office said that Israel's decision is provocative and designed to sabotage the peace process. In Moscow the Foreign Ministry criticized the decision, saying it will lead to confrontation in the peace process. In addition, the PLO has called for an emergency UN Security Council meeting to discuss this decision.

This Israeli action, which was preceded by other similar acts during the Madrid conference and the first round of the negotiations—which will not be the last of its kind—raises doubts about Israel's genuine desire for peace. Furthermore, it aims at provoking and causing despair among the Arab delegations and forcing them to withdraw from the negotiating process. This will provide Israel with an excuse to disengage itself from the peace challenge imposed on it by the Arabs, the Palestinians, and the entire world.

In addition to all the above, Israel's provocative action confirms the continuation of its aggressive, expansionist course at the expense of the Palestinians and the desire to empty the land of its legitimate owners to settle Jewish immigrants. We say that this action, coming at this particular time, is regarded as Israel's new test balloon to measure the extent of the seriousness and commitment of the world, particularly Washington and Western Europe, to complete the peace process to defend the new world order. We think that the response was quick and clear.

Because peace is a noble aim sought by the entire world and because Egypt has previous experience in dealing with Israel and knows that the peace process is difficult and long, it urges the Arab and Palestinian sides to frustrate Israel's design and to attend the new round of negotiations. Egypt, through Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, has strongly denounced the Israeli authorities' decision to deport the Palestinians and called on the Israeli Government to stop such illegal measures which violate international law and contradict the spirit of the peace process. The Egyptian foreign minister held Israel responsible for the effects of this illegal and inhuman action because it represents clear discrimination in treatment between the Palestinians and the others in the occupied Arab territories.

One final word. What follows this continuing Israeli defiance after the Arabs have offered all they have for peace? The answer to this question is left for the international community, particularly the United States, which has initiated the present peace process and is today responsible for defending the new world order. It is incumbent on Washington to make Israel understand that the use of force will be useless, that the era of peoples has begun, and that a just peace is the firm guarantee for the stability and security of the Israeli people—and that this consequently demands great sacrifices.

UN Vote Shows 'International Will' for Peace

NC0801073692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 8 Jan 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing on the Security Council resolution condemning Israel and Israel's reaction to the resolution, AL-AHRAM notes that Israel received the Security Council resolution with mixed feelings of disappointment, defiance toward the international community, and determination not to let the resolution deter it from making similar expulsions in the future.

The paper notes that the United States supported the resolution because it is eager to maintain the peace process. The paper also mentions Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's statement in which he voices Egypt's support for the Security Council resolution and says that the expulsions and other similar Israeli practices against the Palestinians are illegitimate actions bound to have a serious impact on the peace process.

An AL-JUMHURIYAH editorial notes the Security Council's unanimous condemnation of the recent Israeli decision to expel 12 Palestinians and calls on Israel, which is the occupying force, to guarantee the immediate return of the Palestinians, ensure their safety, and respect the Geneva Convention concerning the treatment of civilians in occupied territories.

The paper adds: This was one of the few times that the collective international will condemned Israeli oppression and intransigence. It was also one of the few times in which the U.S. stand was identical to that of the rest of the Security Council. This underscores important facts, most significantly that there is an international will to achieve peace in the region.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Arab Magreb Council Members

LD0701202592 Tripoli JANA in English 1759 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Jan (JANA)—The leader of the revolution received members of the Arab Maghreb Union's Consultative Council which concluded its proceedings in Tripoli this afternoon.

During this meeting, the leader of the revolution stressed the importance of the construction of the Arab Maghreb Union's institutions and parliaments as a step towards the construction of total Arab unity.

The leader of the revolution emphasised the need for the unity of the stance of the Arab Maghreb Union's countries towards various issues and the importance of accomplishing total Arab union hence the fulfilment of the aspirations and wishes of the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf.

The president of the Consultative Council briefed, during this meeting, the leader of the revolution on the decision and recommendations of the third session of the council which concluded its proceedings in Tripoli today.

Commentary Criticizes Focus on Pan Am Incident

LD0701185792 Tripoli JANA in English 1652 GMT 7 Jan 92

["JANA's Political Editor Comments on the Present Use of Old Cards Belonging to the Cold War Era Against the Great Jamahiriyah"—JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli Ay-Annar [January] 7 Jamahiriyah News Agency—The whole world is extremely shocked at this erstwhile and indiscriminate logic, the logic that approves of extracting a single card - the card of Pan Am - from among the black rotten cards of the old international order...the world of cold war between the East and West...the world of the Iran-Iraq war...the war of the Lebanese Shia...the hostages war...the Chadian war...the savage U.S. and British raids over children and civilians

in the two cities of Tripoli and Benghazi...the downing of civil airliners...not only Pan Am but Oustica...the Korean...the Iranian...the French...

The symbols of that era are over starting with Habre to Michele Aoun and there is also Gorbachev, Reagan and Thatcher. Moreover half of the world's establishment which consisted of the Soviet Union, Comecon [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance], and the Warsaw Pact is over.

Everyone is questioning with astonishment why we don't revive all those cases—why only Pan Am?

Bahrain

Iranian Trade Group Meets With Industrialists

JN0701162392 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1315 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Manama, 7 Jan (WAKH)—A joint meeting between an Iranian trade delegation, which is currently visiting Bahrain, and a number of industrialists and representatives of major industrial companies in Bahrain yesterday discussed fields of joint cooperation in the industrial sector.

At the meeting, Mr. Hubayl [not further identified] stressed the importance of developing trade with Iran, particularly in the field of developing Bahraini exports to the Iranian markets, in addition to the re-export trade, and developing joint industrial investments.

Mr. Hubayl hoped that the Iranian companies and industrial establishments would benefit from the facilities and privileges that Bahrain gives to foreign investments, pointing out that Bahrain has provided a legal framework that encourages joint industrial projects between the Bahraini private sector and its counterparts in Iran and other countries. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Journalists Urge Government To Drop Censorship

NC0701140292 Paris AFP in English 1330 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Kuwait City, Jan 7 (AFP)—Eleven months after Iraqi troops were driven out of their country, journalists here have urged Kuwaiti authorities to drop press censorship in exchange for a self- imposed code of conduct.

The journalists made the offer during a meeting Sunday with Prime Minister Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, newspapers reported here Tuesday, adding that he promised a response soon.

Shaykh Sa'ad, who is also crown prince, told a delegation of journalists led by the president of their association, Yusuf al-'Ulayan, that censorship was necessary because of "the exceptional circumstances" prevailing in the emirate.

He urged the press to work toward "maintaining national unity to prevent further external aggressions" against Kuwait.

The code of conduct suggested by the journalists stresses the importance of "not interfering in the internal affairs of foreign states" ..."avoiding rumors" and "exercising the profession within the framework of the law."

Press censorship was initially introduced following the dissolution of parliament in 1986, affecting Kuwait's nine newspapers and half a dozen weeklies.

The Kuwaiti opposition has been pressing for an end to the measures before parliamentary elections that are expected to take place in October.

Delegation to Visit CIS, PRC, Albania

LD0501171192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 5 Jan—The Kuwaiti Cabinet held its weekly meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman made a statement in which he said that out of Kuwait's desire to bolster and develop bilateral relations with a number of friendly countries, the Cabinet has decided to send an official Kuwaiti delegation on a tour of the Russian Federation, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the PRC, and Albania to discuss with the officials of these friendly countries ways of promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields. The delegation will consist of representative of the ministries of foreign affairs, finance, commerce and industry, and public works as well as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the General Organization for Investment, the Kuwaiti Petroleum Establishment, the University of Kuwait, and the Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research.

Al-'Uthman added that the cabinet has passed a draft law approving Kuwait's subscription to the increase in the capital of the World Bank for Building and Construction. The bill will be referred to the National Council for approval. [passage omitted: various other administrative draft laws]

Qatar

Security Council Condemnation of Israel Welcomed

JN0701173092 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, Jan 7 (GNA)—The State of Qatar has welcomed the UN Security Council resolution issued last night which strongly condemned the Israeli decision to expel 12 Palestinians from their homeland.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry said in a statement to QATAR NEWS AGENCY that the unanimous adoption of the UN Security council resolution represented a conspicuous example of the international community's solidarity against the Israeli practices and measures which violate human rights in the occupied Arab territories.

The source said the State of Qatar while receiving the UN decision with praise and satisfaction was keen to join the world community in calling on the Israeli

authorities to halt the deportation of the Palestinians from their territories and to permit the repatriaion of those deported previously.

The State of Qatar also sees that the policy of Palestinians' expulsion from their homeland will hamper the Middle East peace process.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sa'ud, Syria's al-Shar' Chair Joint Session

Opening Speeches Delivered

LD0701141292 Riyadh SPA in English 1234 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 7, SPA—The Saudi-Syrian joint commission started its second session here last night under the co-chairmanship of Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud and his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'.

At the beginning of the session, Prince Sa'ud welcomed the Syrian foreign minister and his accompanying delegation in the Kingdom and wished them a good stay and successful meetings. He said the commission was formed in accordance with the directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to consolidate bilateral cooperation. He said the success that everybody anticipates for this commission is a reflection of the nature of excellent relations binding the two countries.

Prince Sa'ud paid tribute to Syria's stand during the Gulf crisis and hoped that international legitimacy would triumph again by resolving the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Saudi foreign minister pointed out in that connection that Arab peace negotiators have confirmed their sincere commitment to peace and their true willingness to start serious peace negotiations.

"Unfortunately, this position as met by Israel's continued intransigence and repeated attempts to abort the peace process," Prince Sa'ud said. He also pointed to Israel's recent decision to expell 12 Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories and described it as a flagrant violation of international laws.

In his address to the commission, the Syrian foreign minister said the excellent relations between Syria and the Kingdom and their joint interests on the political, economic, scientific, cultural and information fronts "make us look forward to the future with optimism, confidence and faith that the great nation we belong to will be able—with the help of Allah and the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad and his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques—to protect its security, defend its interests and restore it rights and occupied territories, foremost among which is Jerusalem."

He explained that the peace conference has revealed the Israeli rulers' false allegations about peace and their evasion of its just and comprehensive requirements approved by the international community. He stressed that the remaining leg of negotiations would reveal to the international public opinion that the Israeli rulers' evasion and rejection of withdrawal from the Golan Heights, south Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in accordance with the U.N. resolutions, represent a challenge to the international community as a whole, not just concerned Arab countries.

Turning to the work of the commission, al-Shar' said the Syrian and Saudi sides have drawn up the basic lines and firm base of their joint work in all fields, especially politial and economic ones. He stressed that cooperation opportunities between the two countries are open in the fields of economy, industry, tourism, information, youth activities and the exchange of expertise. He also thanked Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and the Saudi Government for their hospitality and expressed his hope that the commission would achieve the desired success.

The meetings of the commission started with a closed session to discuss the main topics on the agenda, especially means of boosting bilateral cooperation.

Meanwhile, Saudi Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammad al-'Ali Aba-al-Khayl met with the Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi and the Minister of Finance Khalid al-Mahayini to discuss economic cooperation between the two countries. The commission will resume its meetings here this morning.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' met separately here on Monday evening. The meeting was attended by the Saudi Ambassador to Syria Ahmed al-Kuhaymi and the Syrian ambassador to the Kingdom 'Umar al-Sayyid.

Later on, Prince Sa'ud gave a dinner banquet in honour of the visiting Syrian foreign minister and his accompanying delegation. The banquet was attended on the Saudi side by the Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammad al-'Ali Aba-al-Khayl, the Minister of Trade Sulayman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sulayyim and several businessmen and Foreign Ministry officials.

Defense Minister Meets al-Shar'

LD0701163192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Excerpt] This afternoon His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, received in the royal office at the Yamamah Palace Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, and Finance Minister Dr. Khalid al-Mahanyani, all members of the Syrian side in the joint Saudi-Syrian Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation. [passage omitted]

Iraq Urged To Comply With UN

NC0701161292 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 7 (AFP) - Syria and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday charged that the Iraqi Government was "humiliating" its own people and urged Baghdad to implement all U.N. Security Council resolutions. A statement following a meeting here of the Syria- Saudi Arabia joint commission expressed "deep regret over the policy of humiliation practiced by the Iraqi regime against its own people." It called for the "full implementation" of U.N. resolutions issued against Baghdad following its defeat in the Gulf war last February.

Iraq has principally rejected two Security Council measures imposed last August authorizing Baghdad to sell 1.6 billion dollars' worth of oil over a six-month period. Two-thirds of the earnings would go for the purchase of food and medicine that would be distributed by the United Nations to Iraqis suffering from an international trade embargo. The rest of the money would be used to pay war reparations and to finance U.N. activities in Iraq.

The Iraqi Government has dimissed the offer, saying it would be unworkable and an affront to its sovereignty.

Syria and Saudi Arabia were key Arab members of a U.S.-led coalition that drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait last February.

Israeli Deportation Order Condemned

JN0701161992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Riyadh—The Syrian Arab Republic and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia today condemned the repressive Israeli policies against the Arab Palestinian people, and the Zionist entity's decision to deport 12 Palestinians, which is considered a flagrant violation of the international laws and the Geneva Conventions.

The final communique of the meetings of the Joint Syrian-Saudi Committee, which concluded its second session, headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal, stressed that the two countries are abiding by their pan-Arab commitment to ensure the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and that they are constantly making efforts to advance the peace process, realizing a just and comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict that guarantees the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the restoration of the occupied Arab territories and Jerusalem on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Meetings End; al-Shar' Departs

JN0701195592 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation, received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the royal palace this afternoon. Attending the meeting were Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade; Khalid al-Mahayini, Syrian minister of finance; Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, Saudi minister of finance and national economy; and 'Umar al-Sayyid, Syrian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

The talks centered on the activities of the Joint Syrian-Saudi Committee and the positive results reached. They stressed the importance of the relations between the two brotherly countries, and the need to bolster them in all fields.

The Joint Syrian-Saudi Committee concluded the meetings of its second session by signing the minutes of the meetings for bilateral cooperation at the Saudi Foreign Ministry this afternoon. The minutes were signed on the Syrian side by Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar', and on the Saudi side by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Attending the signing ceremony were Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade; Khalid al-Mahayini, Syrian minister of finance; Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, Saudi minister of finance and national economy; and the members of the Syrian and Saudi delegations to the joint committee.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal exchanged speeches on this occasion in which they expressed great satisfaction with the positive results reached. They also praised the brotherly and cordial spirit that prevailed during the talks that were held, whether on the political and economic fields or on the activities that stemmed from them in the various domains. They stressed the dynamism for sincere and serious cooperation, which was embodied in the activities of the joint committee and constituted a starting point for attaining the required accomplishments in the service of the noble objectives for which the joint committee was established. They also noted the historic relations that bind the two brotherly countries and peoples, and stressed determination to bolster and promote coordination in its various political and economic forms upon the directives of the leaders of the two countries, President Hafiz al- Asad and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this afternoon. He was seen off at Riyadh Airport by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, high-ranking Saudi Foreign Ministry high-ranking, the Saudi ambassador to Damascus, the Syrian ambassador to Riyadh, and the embassy staff.

A joint press communique was issued on the second session meetings of the joint committee for cooperation between the governments of Syria and Saudi Arabia held in Riyadh on 6 and 7 January 1992.

Joint Communique Issued

LD0701210692 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the second session of the joint Saudi-Syrian Committee for Bilateral Cooperation ended in Riyadh today under the cochairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and His Excellency Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and with the participation of His Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, the Saudi finance and national economy minister, His Excellency Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, the Syrian minister of economy and external trade, and His Excellency Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini, the Syrian minister of finance. [passage omitted]

At the end of its meeting, the committee issued a joint press communique which indicated that the meeting of the joint Saudi- Syrian committee was held in accordance with the provisions of the agreement on the creation of a joint committee for bilateral cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Syria signed in Damascus on 5 February 1991, and also in implementation of the directives issued by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Arab Republic of Syria, and with a view to consolidating the relations of friendship and fraternity and entrenching the deep historical ties between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Syria.

The two sides reviewed the progress of cooperation, coordination, and consultation between them in all political, economic, commercial, financial, industrial, agricultural, cultural, and media fields and also in the fields of arts, workforce, sports, and youth care in the light of the report submitted by the preparatory committee on its meetings held in Damascus during the period 26-31 October 1991.

In the field of coordination and political activity, the two sides reviewed various Arab, Islamic, and international issues of common interest and expressed their pride with the spirit of fraternal cooperation and principled solidarity which manifested itself through their stand by right and justice and the principles of international law and through their contributions to reflect the international will and implement the resolutions of international legitimacy which were crowned with success with the liberation of Kuwait and the latter's recovery of its freedom, sovereignty, and independence and the restoration of its legitimate government.

The two sides renewed their adherence to their pan-Arab and historical commitment to guarantee the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and their constant endeavor to boost the peace process and achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict which guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the recovery of the occupied Arab territories, foremost holy Jerusalem, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the resolutions of international legitimacy. The two sides also expressed their deep regret at the delay in the bilateral negotiations which started in Washington on 10 December 1991.

The two sides also expressed their denunciation of the Israeli arbitrary policies against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and they condemned the decision made recently by the Israeli Government to deport a number of Palestinians. The two sides also expressed their hope to see the peace negotiations achieve, in the forthcoming round, noticeable progress with a view to reaching the desired goals.

The two sides again welcomed the positive developments in sister Lebanon and the achievements made by the Lebanese Government in the process of national concord.

In the field of cooperation in the technical, manpower, and health fields, both sides have agreed to continue cooperation in the field of standards and specifications and in the field of health and manpower training in areas of common interest. Also the joint committee has reviewed the scope for cooperation in the cultural, information, and scientific fields, and the proposed draft execution programs for the cultural and information agreement, and recommend the completion of the study of these programs. Both sides reviewed the scope for cooperation in the fields of transportation and communications and continued the study of the draft execution agreements for land and maritime transportation, and recommended the acceleration of their completion.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction at the achievements of cooperation in the field of post, telegraph, and telecommunications, and in particular the completion of the widening of the communication circuits between the two countries, and also the agreement to begin first class postal services between the two sister countries.

The deliberations of the joint committee took place in an atmosphere of frankness, trust, and amity, which reflects the depth of the fraternal relations between the two sister countries. Both sides have agreed to hold the meetings of the next session of the joint committee in Damascus in Muharram 1413 AH, corresponding to June 1992.

Then the Syrian foreign minister, Faruq al-Shar', made a speech in which he thanked His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and the members of the Saudi side to the committee. He expressed his great satisfaction with the results reached during the meetings of the committee.

He described relations between the two countries as becoming firmer and more orginal every day. He went on to say that our brothers in this blessed land, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are aware that Syria, its leader and people, harbor utmost love and respect for this blessed land, its leadership, and people.

He stressed the determination to continue bolstering and developing this cooperation and coordination in the

light of directives from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud.

Paper Probes Alleged Attempted on Fahd's Life

NC0701121392 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
1 Jan 92 p 1

[Unattributed report entitled: "Who is Behind the Attempt to Assassinate King Fahd in Kuwait? U.S. Air Surveillance Enabled Kuwaitis to Apprehend the Rented Car and the Saudi Suspect"]

[Text] Was there really an attempt to assassinate King Fahd during the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] 12th summit in Kuwait last week?

In the absence of official information and in view of the news blackout on the top secret "investigation" by the Saudi authorities, in parallel with the Kuwaiti authorities' "official" investigation, guided by the information's source, the U.S. security organs, the facts are being conditioned to suit disparate interests and goals.

All that was "leaked" was that a white Volvo drove around until it could infiltrate the "King Fahd motorcade." Then the car's driver tried to steer near the royal car but he was foiled by effective helicopter surveillance. The car was stopped and its driver and another man inside were arrested. Both men turned out to be Saudis.

Investigation revealed that the white "Volvo" was rented by a Kuwaiti car rental agency. The Saudi driver claimed that he was upset by stringent security measures in Kuwait (two days before, during, and two days after the three-day summit) so he tried to "tail" the motorcade to a destination inside the security cordon to tend to some business.

It was also revealed that the "motorcade" was one of several mock motorcades moving in different directions to divert attention from King Fahd's movements and those of other presidents taking part in the summit.

Some Kuwaiti officials let this slip during office briefings. When some Kuwaitis complained of the stringent security measures, officials referred to the "motorcade incident" to justify the measures and their success in "sparing the country and the nation" a disaster that even Saddam Husayn failed to achieve.

Journalists who were invited to cover the summit were worst hit by the strict security measures. They could only get out of their hotels by following a complicated procedure. Unable to do their job they were reduced to watching television and playing cards.

At the end of the summit, journalists were told they they should leave the country the next morning. Their escort woke them at dawn, almost five hours before their planes were due to leave, and "accompanied" them to the airport where they were subjected to the same treatment they received on entry; searched, regardless of their press status and official invitation by the Information and Culture Ministry.

The important thing is that everybody is asking whether there was an attempt to assassinate King Fahd in Kuwait or whether it is a "theatre" that has been carefully put together to achieve certain goals.

Saudi-Kuwaiti relations have been experiencing a silent crisis since before the "liberation". It is a crisis that rises to the surface at times and subsides when it is about to constitute a danger that will threaten American interests and the region's American presence.

Diplomatic circles estimate that the Americans are playing the Saudi-Kuwaiti dispute game, cooling it down when it heats up and fanning it when it cools.

These diplomatic circles believe that from time to time the Americans tell one party annoying and irksome things about the other, instigating it against the other, then at the decisive moment they intervene as mediators and champions of good offices to reconcile the two parties.

These circles believe that the "assassination attempt" is an American trick to frighten the king, harass his kingdom, and weaken Kuwait, emphasizing its constant need for the American as a protector and mediator who cares for Kuwait's relationship with "the third big neighbor", which pre-liberation events revealed had no profound affection for the Kuwaiti ruling family.

The lack of affection between the two sides is put down to the two countries' role in the GCC, where Kuwait does not recognize the Saudi leadership and the Saudis do not recognize the Kuwaiti partnership. Each regime believes that the other's role is too big for it, rather, bigger than its own plans...[ellipsis as published]

The Saudis fault the Kuwaitis for behaving like a major power in the region, assuming the right to openness and to negotiate with anyone without having to refer to Riyadh, whereas the Kuwaitis fault the Saudis for behaving like "the big brother" or "the guardian" and for trying to impose on Kuwait what it does not always accept.

Perhaps the Gulf war has widened the distance between the two sides instead of bringing them closer after the ruling Kuwaiti family took refuge in al-Ta'if, and especially after some members of the ruling Saudi family insinuated that they were prepared to bargain with President Saddam Husayn over the al-Sabah family.

One of the causes of Saudi annoyance with Kuwait is that the Kuwaitis project their state as a leading Gulf state in terms of its constitution, parliament, and parties. This prompted the Saudis to ask the American Administration to intervene to restore the balance in GCC states' internal conditions, giving all of them the same status.

The infiltration of the Saudi motorcade in Kuwait could simply be an American message designed to pressure the

two sides and reopen the debate from an angle that is different from that which followed the recent Gulf war.

Libya's al-Kharrubi Arrives in Riyadh on Visit

LD0701095692 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland 0115 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Excerpts] President of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister of fraternal Sudan Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al- Bashir last night at Port Sudan received Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi who delivered to him a message from the brother leader of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi arrived last night in Riyadh on a visit to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Received by Prince Sultan

LD0701161192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1425 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 7 Jan—This afternoon Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, received at al-Yamamah Palace Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, the inspector general of the Libyan Armed Forces and envoy of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who handed him a message from the Libyan president [as heard] to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

Republic of Yemen

Salih Receives Sudanese Group, al-Bashir Message

JN0701134392 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] At noon today, Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received a Sudanese popular delegation led by Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, minister of state and secretary general of the World Popular Friendship Council in the fraternal Republic of the Sudan.

During the meeting, Dr. Isma'il relayed to the brother president a message from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, containing his as well as the fraternal Sudanese people's condolences to our Yemeni people on the earthquake which hit the al-'Udayn area in the Ibb Governorate and the floods in the Socotra Province. The message also deals with issues pertaining to fraternal bilateral ties and our Arab and Islamic nation as well.

The delegation briefed the brother Presidential Council chairman on the activities of the Yemeni-Sudanese Friendship Society and the fraternal Sudanese people's contributions to aid their Yemeni brothers and alleviate those injured and harmed by the calamitous earthquake and floods in expression of the strong ties of cohesion and solidarity binding the two fraternal peoples.

The brother Presidential Council chairman expressed his thanks and appreciation for this fraternal gesture from the Sudanese brothers, which has deep and great significance, affirming that our Yemeni people take pride in the support extended to them by their brothers in Sudan—leadership, government, and people—, a position which confirms the strength of the warm and brotherly solidarity and cohesion existing between the two fraternal peoples of Yemen and Sudan. He noted that our Yemeni people will never forget this noble and fraternal Sudanese position. He asked the delegation members to relay his greetings to his brother Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, and the fraternal Sudanese people, wishing the fraternal bilateral ties further development and enhancement.

The meeting was attended on the Yemeni side by brother Brigadier General Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, deputy prime minister for defense and security affairs and chairman of the Emergency and Natural Disasters Committee; engineer Muhsin al-Hamadani, minister of state; and engineer Muhammad Dahnun, chief of the Executive Bureau for Reconstruction. On the Sudanese side, the meeting was attended by brothers Ibrahim Muhammad al-Sanusi, assistant secretary general of the Islamic Arab Popular Conference, and Farraj al-Sayyid al-Farraj, chief of the Yemeni-Sudanese Friendship Society.

Minister—'Firm' Stance on UN Oil Resolutions

JN0801090092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has stressed that Iraq's position on the unjust UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 is firm, and has not changed.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published here today, al-Hiti said: During the Vienna meetings, Iraq will explain its firm viewpoint that has not changed since the issuance of the two resolutions, which constitute interference in its internal affairs, and whose implementation is difficult and complicated.

He said that Iraq hopes that logic and wisdom will prevail during its delegation's meeting with the UN representatives so that they can have a better understanding of our principled position, which is based on scientific and logical bases.

Speaking about news agency reports that Saudi Arabia intends to increase its oil production to support the U.S. President during his election campaign, al-Hiti said: Saudi Arabia is currently producing as much oil as it can. It has flooded the world oil market with more than it needs. Other states, such as the United Arab Emirates [UAE], also share in this evil action.

Al-Hiti explained that the objective of this policy is to keep the already low oil prices in a state of continuous decline, especially since Saudi Arabia and the UAE are committed to serving the U.S. economy against the interests of the oil-producing countries.

'Informed Sources' on Vienna Talks

JN0601080192 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Jan 92 pp 1,5

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman—Iraq will press for an increase in quantity and relaxation of guidelines set by the United Nations Sanctions Committee for a one-time sale of oil for humanitarian purposes during talks in Vienna this week with U.N. officials, informed sources said Sunday.

"Iraq is likely to drop the entire deal if the Sanctions Committee rejects its conditions," said one of the sources. "It feels that the U.N. terms are already humiliating and seriously believes in its argument that they represent a blatant interference in its sovereignty," added the source, who preferred anonymity.

Under a resolution adopted by the Sanctions Committee, Iraq is permitted a one-time sale of oil worth $1.6 billion to raise funds for food and medicine for the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

Some of the key Iraqi demands expected to be tabled in Vienna by the country's U.N. ambassador, 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, include an increase of the volume of permitted exports to a minimum of $2.4 billion instead of $1.6 billion and permission to operate the Mina al-Bakr oil terminal in the Gulf, the sources said.

Iraq, which argues that it would receive less than $700 million from the proceeds after the war reparation and U.N. operations allocations are set aide, is also expected to renew a demand for a moratorium on war reparations and press for round-the-clock unrestricted access to all documents pertaining to the channelling of funds, according to the sources.

Iraq has also been demanding that the West lift the freeze on Iraqi assets held abroad. Over $4 billion in Iraqi assets are held in the West.

The U.N. is anxious to ensure that Iraq accepts the oil deal so that the world body can finance its Gulf crisis-related operations. Other countries are looking forward to setting the war reparation process in motion with the 30 per cent allocation from the expected Iraqi oil sale proceeds.

The Iraqi Government, which has consistently rejected the U.N.-approved deal, has nevertheless been involved in discusions with several of its traditional oil customers since September 1991 for possible deals under the one-time sale.

"Iraq will also demand that it be permitted to enter long-term contracts with buyers regardless of the one-time sale," said another source familiar with Iraqi thinking ahead of the Vienna talks, which begin Wednesday.

"Baghdad believes that it should be allowed to resume its slot as a key supplier in the international oil market," said the source. "In addition, it also believes that if the proper mechanism could be worked out the one-time sale could be turned into the return of Iraq to the market." [passage omitted]

'Full Recording' of Saddam's Army Day Speech

JN0601180092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1507 GMT 6 Jan 92

["Full recording" of speech by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the 71st anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army, on 6 January, place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: "Their intention is to extinguish God's light by blowing with their mouths, but God will complete His light, even though the disbelievers may detest it." [Koranic verse]

O great Iraqi people, O sons of the glorious Arab nation, O stalwart men in our valiant Armed Forces: A year ago, on 6 January 1991, the drums of war were beating in the ranks of atheism, betrayal, and treachery. The two gatherings met in a battle unprecedented in the history of mankind, except for the battles waged by those chosen by God as his prophets and messengers to humanity. I say that a year ago, the two gatherings stood opposite each

other. There was the gathering of faith and right, the party of God, represented by the Army and Armed Forces of Iraq on the land from where Abraham came to declare his belief and message and to be the father of prophets, the land of the two immortal rivers in great Iraq. And there was the gathering of atheism, aggression, and evil, with all their representatives in all hideouts of vice, treachery, and betrayal of God, humanity, and principles on earth.

Brothers: The kind land of our nation was the place God Almighty has chosen for his messengers and all his prophets. The Arabs were the ones who shouldered the responsibility of carrying each divine message in order to expand the circle of faith and believers.

This placed on the shoulders of the Arabs the burden of defending it, sometimes with the edge of the sword. Likewise, this required the Arabs to be honest and firm like the edge of the sword in their words and conduct.

It has become customary for the Arabs to honor this duty relentlessly. God Almighty firmly stated that Muhammad, may God's peace be upon him, is the last of the prophets and messengers, and that Islam is the last religion revealed by God. All this was accompanied by that great history in terms of the traits of the nation's sons and men, particularly that they are committed to their words and that their utterances that indicate their stances are their constitution, which they would not change even if their heads or throats were cut.

The meaning of knighthood, with all its loftiness and high values, is synonymous with the most exulted principles which were entrenched and enriched by religious belief. Because the Arabs were the first to invent writing in Iraq; because the divine messages were delivered to the prophets verbally; and because the prophets, along with their companions and disciples, were concerned with recording events, the Arab nation's history is more accurate than that of any other nation throughout times when the human being became a great cultural and civilized value, and a great humanitarian value. Because the Arabs, based on the aforementioned, understood and learned their history, they lived under the yoke of flagrant contradictions, or rather a terrible duality that produced schizophrenia in the character of many of the nation's sons, particularly the educated ones. This schizophrenia is due to the contradiction they encounter between any bright link in their culture in the past and their creative humanitarian role in it when compared to the nation's present and the individual's role in it. This contradiction is also evident in the role of the nation and its individual in spreading the divine messages and the earthly laws under the leadership and guidance of the prophets when compared to the nation's individual, his role, position, and conduct in the recent ages. In these ages, continuity with the bright ages ceased, and compatibility between words and deeds was absent—something which existed in the links of the glorious past.

The dichotomy between Arab action when faithful swords were in the hands of men who vindicated the mission, right, and honor on the one hand, and on the other between the deeds of those mistakenly considered Arabs is bound to come to one's mind sharply and strongly. To these Arabs, the prime task of the sword in the age of decline, the latest parts of which we are experiencing, has become exclusively confined to serving foreigners and slaying kinfolk, thanks to the foreigners' machinations and gimmicks. This can also be attributed to the pressures exerted by the factors of backwardness, which have been at work in Arab life for 700 years, the lifetime of decline in the nation's history, which began after the practical fall of Baghdad, or after its official fall under the hooves of Hulegu's horses in 1258 A.D.

The military sons of the nation were the persons most embarrassed and frustrated when they recalled the nation's bright history. This wound festers and this feeling of dualism exacerbates when history and its honorable past deeds are compared with the present and its components. Colonialism and a handful of Zionists seized the beloved land of Palestine in 1948, and later seized Jerusalem, where the third holiest shrine and the first qiblah is located, in 1967. In one way or another, this state of affairs has remained basically unchanged, despite the fact that the Iraqis and the valiant Iraqi Army were intrinsically freed from this paradox and this duality during the faithful and honorable confrontation in the second al-Qadisiyah battle, where they triumphed on 8 August 1988.

Then came the Mother of Battles to set free the knights of Arabism everywhere from this duality after the al-Husayn, al-'Abbas, and al-Hijarah missiles began to fall to reply thunderously to accursed Israel, and to address an inevitable reply to its aggressiveness and also to the conspiracy of world Zionism to strike the Baghdad of the Arabs. Thus, the Mother of Battles told everybody that the history of faithful knighthood as we read it in our history books is correct and accurate, and that the duality plaguing some Arabs does not lie in an inaccurate reporting of historical events or in an exaggeration of these events, but rather in that those Arabs who belong to this category and live in this age do not have the personality traits that qualify them to perform honorable acts similar to the traits that marked the conduct of Arabs in the past, as inscribed in the annals of history. The presence of the basic and necessary factors, their strong interaction with their environment, and a feeling for the sacred duty dictated by deep faith makes a revival of these great and honorable models in the nation's history, and the history of mankind as well, not only possible, but also inevitable.

The major deficiency in the Arab's character these days, wherever he may be, cannot be attributed to genetics, but rather it lies in the character of those who are responsible for it and for not providing the appropriate environment for his character to be formed as it used to be: faithful and capable of carrying out sincere, accurate, and faithful action. Thus, Iraq's knights have today become

the gate of chivalry in its most exalted signs which positively affect the characters of the nation's sons. The knights of the nation have also been liberated from duality, and chivalry began to derive its revolutionary, realistic meanings in the armies of many Third World countries and all the world states from the Mother of Battles and from the fighting and steadfastness in it by our valiant Armed Forces and their reliance on faith in God and the firm rights of our people and nation in their confrontation of the idol of this age, which appeared in its most hideous, darkest, terroristic, oppressive, and tyrannical image. This is a great honor and role for our people and Armed Forces.

In the Mother of Battles, everyone stood under his flag and Iraq was named as a representative of God the Merciful. The ranks of infidelity, atheism, treason, and treachery were hiding behind various banners. They did not declare themselves or their intentions, believing that they would deceive God and mankind. In fact, they only deceived themselves. Ignominy to them. Among these ranks were some ugly-looking faces of hypocrites and Croesuses, as though emerging from graves with ignominy covering their faces, to declare the evil continuity of the history of Abu-Rughal [an Arab traitor who led the Abyssinians to Mecca] and Croesus, who were humiliated by God. They are the companions of evil and the eaters of the bitter tree of hell. The whole world stood witness to the fighting and confrontation. God Almighty was the best of witnesses to members of the two camps, their objectives, and the intentions of both sides of the confrontation.

While the hearts of the believers were in the trench of faith, where our ranks were standing, imploring God to grant victory to our gathering, the hearts of the people of blasphemy and vice and the traitors—who humiliated their people, relinquished their dignity, squandered their money, and exposed themselves, and who were counted among the ranks of our glorious nation—were calling on their satan to defeat the faithful gathering. They were in agreement in this with the enemies of God, who surround the land of Iraq, who killed all virtue in their heart and who acted out of deception, vice, and hateful meanness. At that time, statements were made in light of intentions. The representatives of the two gatherings spoke about their gatherings. The faithful people spoke about their gathering. After seeking help from God, when they spoke about bravery, they spoke about the great Iraqi Army, the army of al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles. Thus, the army of Iraq became the knight of principles and the slogan of leadership and faith, which embody the power sought by God in this confrontation. Despite the known differences in the criteria of technical and material balance with all its forms and degrees, our resort to the army of the nation, the army of Iraq—after relying on God—was sound and right. And the brave stand of our Armed Forces on our side and on the side of all believers was sound and honest. Here and there, there were frightened hearts. And God alone knows the unknown.

Our great moral support was the support of all the mujahidin in the camp of faith; it was faith in God, justice, and great principles. We recalled the right of the nation, mankind, and an Iraq that is accepted by God. We also recalled the essence and spirit of the confrontation that was waged between faith on the one hand and the Byzantine and Persian empires of polytheists, aggression, and evil 1,400 years ago, on the other. We recalled the heroes, their known stands, and the great results. "O ye who believe. If ye will help the cause of Allah, He will help you, and plant your feet firmly." [Koranic verse]

In such a situation, there should not be hesitation or retreat on the part of those who are concerned about freedom given by God and underscored by Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, his righteous companions, and the orthodox caliphs. The words of 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab, may God be pleased with him, "Why have you enslaved people who are born free," will remain a loud cry in the face of every criminal tyrant.

Sons of our great people and our glorious Arab nation, and the gallant fighters of our Army: Those who reject being thrown into the unknown, which is meant only to be evil, have no option but to rely on God, reject tyranny, and seek God's help against the idol that came to us from overseas. They have no option but to say no to that wicked and arrogant gathering, which looks very small when compared to virtue. This no must be as big and loud as God wants.

Brothers, everybody wondered, then, whether the Iraqi Army was gallant enough, and whether the Iraqi Armed Forces, in general, were up to the challenge. Is the leadership of Iraq, including God's servant Saddam Husayn, right when it boasts about its knights and men?

Many studies to compare and show the differences in the balance of power were made. And we must say that there was a clear difference if material and technical aspects alone were to be considered. But we have never thought that those considerations are the decisive ones, although we prepared for them the force that terrifies the enemies of God and believers. They dared not attack Baghdad, which is proud of its people and history and which is cherished by every zealous believer, before they gathered more than 30 states. This, in brief, was the picture at the frontlines, before the firing took place; that is, a year ago today. Many people held their breath, with God helping the believers feel relaxed and easy. But the some people on the losing opposite side were breathing heavily, looking like lurking, vicious dogs ambushing prey.

The Army and Armed Forces of Iraq have their hands firmly on triggers as ordered by God. They are raising the great banner, which was the slogan and essence of the Mother of Battles, the banner of God Is Great. And the people of great Iraq, from end to end, are roaring, holding fast to the rope of God. What happened has happened. The people and Army of Iraq have given the nation and humanity further proof of God's ability to grant victory to those He likes and to defeat those he

dislikes. Does the Iraqi Army not deserve this status with God and among people? Do Iraq's Armed Forces not deserve the prayers of all believers and good people wherever they exist? Does the Iraqi Army not deserve that we celebrate its anniversary on 6 January every year at the national, pan-Arab, and even the human level? Were we not right when we relied on the mujahid knights of the Army? Has the Iraqi Army not kept its promise despite everything?

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "O ye who believe. Shall I lead you to a bargain that will save you from a grievous penalty? That ye believe in God and His apostle, and that you strive your utmost in the cause of God, with your property and your persons. That will be best for you if ye but knew. He will forgive you your sins, and admit you to Gardens beneath which rivers flow, and to beautiful mansions in Gardens of Eternity: That is indeed the supreme achievement. And another favor He will bestow, which ye do love—help from God and a speedy victory. So give the glad tidings to the believers." [Koranic verses]

God is great, and may He have mercy on the virtuous martyrs.

God is great, and may He grant pride and glory to every Iraqi man and woman who continued to see the facts and the truth and acted accordingly despite the intensity of enemy fire; those Iraqis who returned to continue the march after a setback caused by the heavy aggression.

God is great, and greetings to the mujahidin of Palestine, the mujahidin of the nation, and all good people in the world, who are working so that virtue and what pleases God may not desert our planet.

God is great, and accursed be the lowly. Peace and blessings be upon you, O brothers.

RCC Decision on Reimbursement for Land Issued

JN0501164192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a decision stating that the Ministry of Finance shall pay the prices for the land tracts covered by Paragraph 2 of the RCC Decision 200 of 24 June 1991 to their original owners and obtain installments from those who purchased these land tracts.

The following is the text of the decision:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The RCC

Decision No. 459

Decision Date: 24 Jumada al-Akhirah 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 30 December 1991.

Decision: In accordance with the provisions enshrined in Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

First, the Ministry of Finance shall pay the prices of the land tracts covered by Paragraph 2 of amended RCC Decision 200 of 24 June 1991 to their original owners and obtain installments from those who purchased the land tracts in question, if it was agreed that the prices were to be paid in installments.

Second, the competent ministers and agencies shall implement this decision.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

The RCC issued Decision 200 on 24 June 1991, returning to original owners all land tracts confiscated in accordance with RCC Decision 1223 of 13 November 1983, which was revoked because the prices of these land tracts had not been paid. Paragraph 2 of the decision stipulates that if it transpires that a confiscated tract of land was sold to a third party, the price obtained shall be paid to the original owner.

UN Chief Informed of 'Many' Kuwaiti 'Violations'

JN0301171492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] United Nations, 2 Jan (INA)—Iraq has called on the UN secretary general to intervene with the Kuwaiti side to return an Iraqi vehicle and police pistols and salaries that have been seized by authorities of the Kuwaiti regime authorities. This came in a message sent by the deputy Iraqi permanent representative to the UN secretary general. The official text of the message was distributed here on Thursday as an official Security Council document.

Iraq said in the message that, as usual, the Kuwaiti side committed more than one violation at the same time when its forces held a number of Iraqi policemen and seized their vehicles, their pistols, and their salaries amounting to 20,321 Iraqi dinars.

The message adds that these many violations in one day are represented by the infiltration into Iraqi territory by a Kuwaiti patrol, the holding of Iraqi policemen and their hardware, and the Kuwaiti patrol's carrying of unauthorized weapons in the demilitarized zone.

Iraq noted that all this shows the Kuwaiti side's disregard for the Security Council resolutions and blatant violation of the report prepared by the secretary general on the implementation of Paragraph 5 of Security Council Resolution 687 for 1991.

The Iraqi message ridicules the Kuwaiti side's allegation in a previous official message that the incident took place on Saturday, 2 December. The message says that 2 December was not a Saturday.

Protest Over 6 Jan Violations Issued

JN0601191892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA)—Iraq has accused the rulers imposed on Kuwait of violating the terms of the demilitarized zone and of changing the current conditions in that zone by building 30 police posts in it.

This was stated in a letter sent to the UN secretary general by Iraq's permanent mission to the United Nations. The text of the letter was released today as an official UN Security Council document.

The letter says that nine of the Kuwaiti posts were built less than 1,000 meters from the border shown on the map drawn by UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observers Mission] in an attempt by Kuwait to create tension, friction, and incidents.

The letter names these nine posts. It says the al-'Abdali post was built 250 meters from the line, al-Rukah post 300 meters from the line, and the other posts ranged between 400 and 800 meters. All of these posts violate the terms of the demilitarized zone.

The Iraqi letter confirms what the UN secretary general already announced to the effect that the Kuwaiti side has made 114 land violations and 86 airspace violation between 10 May and 3 October 1991, as well as the Kuwaiti violations in the last three months of 1991 as documented by UNIKOM's weekly reports.

In its letter, Iraq explained that these violations clearly show the extent of Kuwaiti's disdain for UN Security Council resolutions and the reports of the UN secretary general and UNIKOM.

'Official Source' on Prisoners Returned by Iran

JN0301112592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA)—An official source said today that in the past year, Iran sporadically has handed over a total of 1,421 Iraqis claiming that they were prisoners. In fact, among these people there were only 421 prisoners taken during the Iranian aggression against Iraq. The other 1,000 were not prisoners of war, but people who fled to Iran during the U.S.-Atlantic aggression or who were driven there by force at the hands of the elements of the chapter of treachery and treason.

The official source told INA that the Iranian side is persisting in its habit of deception and lying. The Iranians are attempting to consider these returnees to Iraq as prisoners of war in order to compensate for the shortage of real Iraqi prisoners given that a number of them were martyred as a result of torture in the detention camps inside Iran.

Iran Plots To Kill Opposition Figures Abroad

JN0401095592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0718 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has revealed that the Iranian regime has drawn up a plan for the assassination of Iranian opposition figures abroad.

The newspaper cited its correspondent in Paris as saying that reports received from Iran indicate that during a meeting of the regime's National Security Council last Saturday, regime President Hashemi-Rafsanjani tasked Fallahiyan-Khuzestani, minister of intelligence (Savak), and Ahmed Vahidi [name as received], commander of the al-Quds special terror squad, which is affiliated with the Guards Corps, with the implementation of this plan.

The newspaper's correspondent explained that this decision was made after the abortive attempt to assassinate Iranian opposition leader Masud Rajavi in front of the Mojahadin-e Khalq office in Baghdad and the detention of two of the regime's terrorist diplomats on 23 December.

AL-JUMHURIYAH noted that the Iranian National Security Council has decided to increase efforts with the Swiss and French governments on the detention of one of the regime's terrorists in Bern.

It is noteworthy that Zayn el-Abidine Sarhadi [name as received], who has been detained in Bern, is one of the men of the Iranian regime and an active member of the Guards Corps' intelligence service. [passage omitted]

Road Equipment in Kurdish Areas Smuggled to Iran

JN0501191992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Dahuk, 5 Jan (INA)—A reliable source in Sarsank has informed Kurdish radio that our dear country has recently seen the blessings of God in the form of white snow that has covered our mountains. However, he noted, the accumulation of snow has blocked roads in the governorates where our Kurdish citizens live.

The source added: It has been impossible to open these roads, as was done during past winters. The only reason for this is that all the shovels, equipment, and machines which had been used in the past to open these roads were smuggled to Iran by subversive elements belonging to some Kurdish parties. These elements sold these machines and pieces of equipment there so as to deny our countrymen the chance of using them this season.

The source went on to say that the smuggling of this equipment and machinery to Iran will preclude any future maintenance of these roads in the aftermath of the winter season. Therefore, saboteurs, he noted, will exacerbate the acts of sabotage they have been carrying out in the Kurdistan region.

Belarus Official on Economic Siege, U.S. Pressure

JN0601155992 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 1 Jan 92 p 13

[Interview with Gennadiy Navikitch, Belarus deputy minister of foreign economic relations, name and title as published, in Baghdad on 18 December 1991]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [ALIF BA'] What is the nature of your visit to Iraq as the head of a commercial delegation?

[Navikitch] Our visit aims to establish solid economic relations in various fields. The Belarussian delegation includes technicians in various commercial and industrial fields. The visit also aims to work out a program for commercial and economic cooperation in the postsiege period. Our talks with Iraqi officials were fruitful and very successful. We agreed to establish a wide range of economic relations between Iraq and Belarus.

[ALIF BA'] The economic siege which the United States has been imposing on Iraq for more than a year has caused severe consequences for the Iraqi people despite Iraq abiding by all Security Council resolutions. How do you view the siege?

[Navikitch] We have seen the scope of the damage inflicted on Iraq as a result of the war that the United States and its allies launched. During our visit, we also saw the scope of the tragedy that the Iraqi people are suffering due to the acute shortage of food, medicine, and other basic needs. The Belarussian people understand the tragedy that the Iraqi people are going through because they experienced the same thing during World War II when we lost more than one quarter of the population of Belarus. Therefore, we call on the Security Council to send its missions to witness the tragic conditions through which the Iraqi people are going. The siege imposed on Iraq is very exaggerated. The Security Council has to lift this siege immediately, reconsider all resolutions it adopted against Iraq, and to allow Iraq to export its oil so it can import its food, medicine, and other needs.

[ALIF BA'] The U.S. Administration is trying to use the economic siege as a winning card to pressure the countries whose policies conflict with Washington. It used this card against the former Soviet republics. How do you view this?

[Navikitch] It is true that the United States used this economic card against a number of states to employ pressure on them, but as for the Republic of Belarus, we will not allow the United States or anyone else to use an economic crisis as a means to pressure us or to dictate its policy to us, particularly in internal affairs.

Gorbachev Held Responsible for USSR Collapse

JN2912140291 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Dec 91 p 7

[Article by Sabri Hammadi: "Is What Gorbachev Has Done a Gamble or a Conspiracy?!]

[Text] Several urgent questions arise with the rapid and alarming collapse of the USSR, foremost among which are: What has happened to the USSR? How has it happened? Why has the state of affairs in the USSR worsened so dramatically? Where are Gorbachev's slogans? Was he serious when he raised the perestroyka slogan? If he was, why then has he failed to restructure anything of all that has been collapsing? Indeed, why has he chosen to demolish and squander everything?

The most important questions posed in this regard are the following: Was Gorbachev a communist? Did he make earnest attempts to save the USSR from its wide-ranging and far-reaching economic, political, and social crises, or was he acting in accordance with a scheme designed to dismantle the USSR, destroy it, and end its role as a superpower in the world?

In early 1990, Dr. Fu'ad Zakariya wrote a series of analytical articles (seven in number) under the headline "The Grandest Historical Gamble." In these articles, Zakariya basically examined Soviet developments, as well as the communist European regimes which were then collapsing at a less rapid pace. He attributed these developments to intrinsic factors that had something to do with the nature of these regimes, their structures, political practices, shortcomings, and deviations. With all humility, I would venture to say that Dr. Zakariya's articles were some of the most profound, serious, objective, and sober analyses written in the Arab world on developments in what used to be called the communist camp.

Dr. Fu'ad Zakariya's standpoint can be summed up as follows: Gorbachev "is engaged in one of the grandest historical gambles." He "engaged himself in this gamble after he had made highly accurate calculations. However, since the course of history is more complex than the numbers on the six sides of a dice, these calculations can be expected to err with regard to numerous details."

It is abundantly clear that Dr. Zakariya assumed that Gorbachev was well intentioned. Furthermore, he viewed Gorbachev as a man who was serious in his calls for perestroika and glasnost. However, regardless of this assumption, he still viewed him as a gambler. Of course, the possibilities of loss are there for all gamblers despite the fact that their calculations and wagers could be highly accurate and valid. Still worse, "his basic gamble is on human nature and the time factor. Each of these two factors could help him and get him to heaven. At the same time, each of these factors could bring his own ruin, kill his experience, and turn it into a calamitous tragedy."

I suspect, and I could be mistaken in this, that if he were to write right now on the outcome of Gorbachev's grand

"gamble" in the aftermath of all that has happened in the USSR in 1991, Dr. Fu'ad Zakariya would rule out good intentions on Gorbachev's part. Moreover, his analysis would move in a totally different direction, particularly after Gorbachev's stands, the truth of his slogans, and his close links with Western quarters, especially the U.S. Administration, have been exposed.

Observers have the right to assume that Gorbachev was honest, sincere, and serious in his attempt to correct the course of the USSR and remedy its far-reaching crisis, which exacerbated before 1991. However, what happened this year, particularly the suspect and orchestrated August coup, prompts one to have suspicions about Gorbachev. This is because this coup aimed to liquidate the military and civilian elements within the Soviet leadership who stood against the dismantlement of the USSR, and against subservience to the imperialist West.

Soviet developments in 1991, which were marked by an unusual acceleration and big setbacks and surprises that eventually led to the irreversible collapse of the USSR, cast intense doubts over Gorbachev's stand, policies, and real intentions. Most often, Gorbachev looked resigned and impotent. Sometimes, he did dash, but in the direction of fragmenting the USSR, sabotaging it, and selling its political positions.

It is true that the USSR, just like other communist regimes in Eastern Europe, had within it many of the seeds of weakness and failure, and that the numerous intrinsic factors pushing the situation toward collapse and fragmentation cannot be dismissed out of hand. Yet, what is also true is that the element of external conspiracy cannot be ruled out when Soviet developments are examined. Was it mere coincidence that Gorbachev became a star in the West, with all that stardom entails? Was it mere coincidence that his popularity in Europe and the United States was greater than it was in his home country? Was it mere coincidence that he became a millionaire within a few years?

At any rate, whether Gorbachev was a gambler or a conspirator, history will hold him as the primary catalyst responsible for the collapse that has taken place, and also for the division of the USSR into states along national, ethnic, and religious lines. Yes, it will make no difference whether Gorbachev proves to be a man who engaged in "the grandest historical gamble," or if he proves to be a man who played a role meant to be played as part of a grand conspiracy. This is because the end result would remain unchanged. Certainly, other cards will be consecutively revealed, because many things are yet to be disclosed. As for subsequent developments, they will reveal all this.

Salih Receives Message From Polish Counterpart

JN0501153892 Baghdad INA in English 1525 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 5, INA—Mr. Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly today received here the ambassador of Poland to Iraq.

It was reported here that during the meeting, the Polish ambassador delivered to Mr. Salih a message from the speaker of the Polish parliament related to strengthening joint cooperation between the two assemblies and promoting bilateral relations between the two countries.

'Steadfastness,' 'Accomplishments' in 1991 Hailed

JN3112105591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said that the unique heroic epics registered by the Iraqi people and their valiant armed forces in the Mother of Battles rose above all the events of 1991.

In an article published here today, the paper adds that the legendary Iraqi steadfastness assumed top position in the most prominent events of this year, and that the new year will record for mujahid Iraq new bright pages, successes, and accomplishments of the same unique kind that behoove the Iraqis and their great national will.

The paper explains that the new year will be the year of growing Iraqi efforts in all fields and activities, whether by continuing to confront the economic blockade and conspiracies that target Iraq's sovereignty, independence, revolutionary experiment, and historic leadership, or by stepping up building and reconstruction activities to ensure the best use of Iraq's resources and available intrinsic capabilities in order to guarantee a balanced national economy.

The paper indicates that the Iraqi people who remained steadfast, fought, challenged with unprecedented courage the U.S.- Zionist-Atlantic military aggression, exposed the chapter of treason and treachery, shattered the futile dreams and intentions of the evil ones, and accomplished a great deal with its creative efforts, will enter the new year more determined to proceed on the great road of jihad, and will move forward with constant steps and sincere national will that overcomes all difficulties, and challenges all dangers.

The paper stresses that the new year will certainly witness the final downfall of the last chapters of aggression, illusions, and wagering on which the criminal Bush continues to depend to attain his futile objectives.

'Survival' in 1991 Termed 'Miracle'

JN0101115192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 1 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jan (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers have described the last year as the year of Arab challenge represented by Iraq standing against all forces of evil, aggression, and hegemony led by the United States. In their editorials today, the papers express absolute confidence that the Iraqis, who faced the might of the aggressive alliance at the beginning of last year and throughout subsequent months, will turn the new year into an epic year for removing all the effects of aggression and

restoring Iraq's pan-Arab and humanitarian role in the homeland, the Arab arena, and the world.

AL-THAWRAH says that last year was the most difficult because no homeland or people had ever been exposed to a colonialist onslaught similar to the one to which Iraq was exposed—an onslaught in which all forms of aggression and destruction and all methods of plotting and blockade were used.

AL-THAWRAH describes Iraq's survival after all that took place last year as a miracle. It adds that the aggression was targeted against Iraq's structure being the center of determination, the shield of sovereignty, the base of principles, and the slogan of existence.

AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, promises that during 1992 the reconstruction will be completed and all forms of obstacles will be overcome. The paper affirms that Iraq is aware that its enemies will continue to throw thorns and plant mines on the path of its awakening.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that last year was the most important and dangerous in the history of Iraq and the Arab nation. It adds that this year should be called the year of the great challenge because confrontation between the camps of justice and falsehood continued throughout all its hours and days.

AL-JUMHURIYAH agrees with AL-THAWRAH in expressing confidence in the new year. AL-JUMHURIYAH says that optimism in the new year is not based on abstract feelings and mere hopes. Iraq has restored its strength, which will maintain the safety and dignity of its sons; and the Iraqis have expanded their experience in confronting the difficulties, dealing with them, and triumphing over them. Also, belief in the legitimacy of Iraq's position vis-a-vis its enemies has been entrenched.

AL-'IRAQ says that the epic-like Mother of Battles, which was an object of pride, was recorded by the Iraqis' blood, pains, unique patience, and legendary steadfastness. That was the greatest confrontation known to mankind between a people seeking peace, justice, and pride away from foreign interference, hegemony, and tutelage and an arrogant imperialist force which used the meanest and dirtiest methods of annihilation and destruction to destroy this people and annul their humanitarian and cultural role.

The paper also expresses optimism in the new year. It says that the Iraqis have crossed to the bank of safety, stability, and prosperity. We hope that 1992 will be a year of goodness and blessings, during which we will complete the reconstruction and remove the effects of aggression and aggressors.

Shamir—Settlements To Be on Peace Talks Agenda

TA0801122992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir believes that the settlements in the territories are only part of the border dispute between Israel and the Arabs, and will be on the agenda for discussion in the peace negotiations. The premier made the point today in a meeting with visiting U.S. Republican Senator Phil Gramm. Shamir told the senator that Israel could not accept the idea that Jews will not be allowed to live in certain parts of the land of Israel.

The prime minister expressed the hope that understanding could be reached with the administration regarding the issues at question between the two countries. He was confident that the United States would be ready to aid Israel in absorbing new immigrants. He pointed out that Israel did not request any loans or grants in this regard—an apparent reference to the loan guarantees Israel is seeking.

New Talks Proposal Expected To End Corridor Talks

TA0801070292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] The peace talks are expected to resume in Washington on Monday. It has been learned from Damascus that all the Arab delegations will leave for the United States within 24 hours.

Our Washington-based correspondent has learned that the Palestinians intend to accept Israel's latest proposal on procedures for the talks, so as to put an end to the corridor talks. According to the proposal, the first debate will be attended by heads of the Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian delegations. That debate will be followed at once by a two-track debate.

The debate on self-rule in the territories will be attended by the Palestinian delegation and two Jordanian representatives, while the debate on issues disputed by Jordan and Israel will be attended by the Jordanian delegation and two Palestinian delegates. This will be followed by a meeting of the Israeli delegation and the complete Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Delegates Discuss Bilateral, Multilateral Talks

TA0801075392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Qeren Neubach]

[Text] Judging by the remarks of various Arab delegates, the Israeli delegation to the direct talks will have to wait until 13 January to start discussions. An Arab diplomatic source has said the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will not arrive before Thursday, or even Friday. The Syrian and Lebanese delegations will also arrive by the end of the week.

Foreign Ministry Director General Yosi Hadas said a short while ago he does not believe Israel will reconsider its decision to return home on Wednesday, 15 January.

[Begin Hadas recording] I do not think we will change our decision. We are not playing here, and this is not a game. On the previous occasion, we said in advance that we would be unable to accept the unilateral invitation, and that we would arrive on 9 December. We did arrive on 9 December, and we stayed out the time. [end recording]

Knowledgeable sources said, however, that when the talks start, the approach may be reviewed and the Israeli delegation may extend its stay to the end of next week. Hadas harshly criticized the absence of the Arab delegations:

[Begin Hadas recording] I must say they have blatantly violated their commitment, their own suggestions. [end recording]

Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, said that the Israeli delegation may decide it has had enough, pack its belongings, and leave. Our delegation is not made up of pensioners, said Ben-Aharon, referring to the Israeli delegates' diverse occupations back home. The process cannot be held hostage each time something happens, he added.

Foreign Ministry Director General Yosi Hadas and senior U.S. Administration officials have again held a meeting about the multilateral conference due to be held in Moscow on 28 January. Hadas made it plain to the Americans that Israel will not consent to the participation of a separate Palestinian delegation in the multilateral talks, or to the inclusion of diaspora Palestinians in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 8 January, in a page 2 report by Rami Tal from Washington, adds: "The Foreign Ministry director general said that the Israeli delegations have a mandate to suggest an agenda for the talks, and in his opinion, this means that they have a mandate to discuss substance. He stressed that the delegation to negotiations with the Jordanians and the Palestinians has a mandate to broach negotiations on "self-rule," and that this term differs from "autonomy."]

Details of U.S. Loan Guarantees Request Viewed

TA0801101092 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Jan 92 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] The U.S. Administration is prepared to reach a compromise with the Israeli Government on its request for loan guarantees for the absorption of Soviet immigrants.

That is the impression of U.S. Jewish leaders who met with John Skinner, the new White House chief of staff, and other senior officials dealing with the subject.

In the meantime, the Treasury has finished preparing the documents to be presented to the U.S. as part of the loan guarantees request. The documents were prepared by Ya'aqov Lipschitz, former director general of the Treasury, who was asked by the Treasury to explain Israel's request. The document has been obtained by YEDI'OT AHARONOT, and the following are its main principles:

—Israel plans to spend some of the loan funds it will receive from U.S. banking institutions with the U.S. Government guarantees in the United States for the purchase of various materials and services.

—Israel prefers to take U.S. guaranteed loans because any other path would have called for "sharp and wide-ranging government intervention in the economic system, which would have led to the expansion of the bureaucracies to implement the changes, the imposition of new taxes, and nationalization of services and business plants."

—Israel is now facing a one-time opportunity to bring about economic development, including increased economic activity, the expansion of the GNP, and increasing human resources. The immigrants currently arriving have extraordinary human potential; of the some 310,000 immigrants, some 70 percent have tertiary education. Absorbing the immigrants would give Israel relatively the most educated population in the world.

—Assuming that Israel will have to absorb 1 million immigrants in the coming years, the gap in capital resources will reach $26.5 billion. That gap cannot be bridged from existing financial sources. There is, therefore, a need to import capital.

—Israel does not have a "plan" to exploit the loan guarantee funds. It plans to develop projects that will be funded—either with the loan guarantees or without them.

—Israel plans to fund three projects with the loan guarantees: the eastern Negev, the Galilee, and industrial parks. The cost of those projects is $30 billion.

—There is no way to assure that the funds from the loan guarantees will only finance immigrant absorption and will not be incorporated into development beyond the Green Line. Nevertheless, it can be agreed with the U.S. Administration that specific sections of the budget will be funded from the loans.

—Israel's ability to repay its debts is excellent: The foreign debt is now less than 40 percent of the GNP. It is difficult to estimate what its ability to repay its loans will be in 10 or 20 years. The assumption is that the loan guarantees will be used as a basis to strengthen the credibility of the Israeli economy and to bring additional investment from various sources.

Shamir—'Excellent' Record on Repayments

TA0701130992 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Jan 92 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] "Israel has an excellent record of repaying loans and hopes the United States will grant it the loan guarantees for the absorption of Soviet immigrants," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday told visiting U.S. Congresswoman Jean Kelly-Horn.

Shamir explained to his guest the importance of the guarantees for Israel. He emphasized: "For us, it is matter of principle to repay loans. There has never been a case in our history in which we have not fulfilled our financial obligations." The prime minister noted that U.S. citizens do not distinguish between guarantees and loans. "Israel is not asking the United States for a loan but only guarantees for a loan which would greatly help us to absorb the masses of immigrants. If we get the guarantees, we will be very grateful," Shamir said.

Shamir 'Loathes' Deportations, But 'Duty' To Use

TA0701142592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that Israel loathes acts of deportation and imprisonment, but, facing murders and terrorism, it has a duty to take all the appropriate steps to prevent them. At the same time Israel's policy is to continue the peace process. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr. Shamir made the remarks in a meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the head of the Anglican Church, currently visiting Israel.

Chief of Staff Baraq Raises Deportation Ideas

Suggests Deportations for 'Given Period'

TA0701142392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Speaking today before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq raised the idea that deportations be made to last for a given period of time in order to open new possibilities relating to punishments inflicted on activists in the territories. The chief of staff believes that the root of the world's opposition to the deportations lies in the interpretation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and in the fact that deportations are perceived as irreversible and open-ended.

Several members of the committee understood Baraq's remarks to mean that he is preparing mass deportations. At the end of the meetings, however, the chief of staff told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen that he did not make any operative suggestions, but only raised an idea that should be considered.

Elaborates on Mass Expulsion Idea

TA0701200992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq today raised the possibility of changing the procedure of deportations from the territories and suggested that it be limited in time in advance. Speaking before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Lieutenant General Baraq raised the idea that the number of deportees be raised greatly, while determining beforehand that the deportation would last for 18 months; three months after the deportation, a committee would be able to reconsider the duration of the punishment. The chief of staff termed his idea food for thought. Our correspondent in the Knesset Ya'aqov Ahime'ir reports:

[Begin recording] [Ahime'ir] The first thing that took place today was the criticism Likud Deputy Minister Pinhas Goldstein leveled at the chief of staff. Goldstein today revealed remarks the chief of staff made a short time ago in a joint session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and the Finance Committee.

[Goldstein] The military echelons may not urge the Knesset members, the legislative body, not to vote for the defense budgets of the State of Israel. Such remarks must never be made. I do not compare it to other remarks recently made by senior officers, for which they were rightfully reprimanded. Being the leader of the Army, the chief of staff must be careful with his words and beware of remarks that should not be made; and I am trying to be very careful with my words.

[Ahime'ir] The chief of staff told us in response: During that session, in the presence of the defense minister, it was my duty to say things as they are. In any event, we did not debate the Budget Law but a Finance Ministry document.

Still, what caused a much bigger uproar today was the chief of staff's thoughts concerning the deportation measure. It appears that the chief of staff has different ideas. He termed his remarks today as food for thought. After the session he told us:

[Baraq] I analyzed the situation as it is. I pointed at the fact that the root of the world political opposition [to the deportations] stems from an interpretation of the Geneva Conventions—which we may not accept, but which many people in the world do—and from a feeling that the punishment, the way it is implemented today, is an irreversible act uprooting people for an indefinite time. I raised this question: Suppose we could predetermine the period of deportation, not make it very long, we could then perhaps remove a large part of the public, legal, and perhaps even political opposition to this in the world, which would allow us a more effective use of this measure.

[Ahime'ir] In suggesting that the duration of the deportation be predetermined, are you not reducing the severity of this punishment, allowing the deportee to know ahead of time that after some time he will be allowed back to his family and home?

[Baraq] Formally, a deportation is not exactly a punishment; it is a measure the commander of the regional command—representing the sovereign ruler—may use to attain quiet. Naturally, it is connected to the behavior of the prospective deportee. I believe that had determining the duration of time been possible, we could perhaps have an opening for more options than we presently have at our disposal.

[Ahime'ir] In the framework of the food for thought you gave the Knesset committee, I believe you also spoke of a massive increase in the number of deportees. Did you not?

[Baraq] No. I remarked that once we manage to remove the sting of the opposition—linked to the feeling that this is an irreversible move for long periods of time—it would be possible that the attitude toward what today takes place in sporadic figures could be different.

[Ahime'ir] If I am not mistaken you said: We will deport 12, 120, or 1,200, meaning mass deportations.

[Baraq] I would not like to refer here, at the Knesset studio, to remarks quoted from what was said in the committee, for the sake of the committee's secrecy.

[Labor Knesset member Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer] I believe the idea as such will not work. It will only cause damage because the main lesson learned from all deportations so far has proven one thing only: Deportations did not stop terror. Furthermore, what has happened till this day, has proven that the only possible way to reduce terrorism is a political solution. Deportations as such have so far only caused us political damages.

[Baraq] I believe it would be very problematic for us if, when speaking to one of the most important committees of the Knesset, the chief of staff could not analyze reality as it is and raise ideas, possibilities, or bring food for thought concerning options to deal with problems we are faced with.

[Ahime'ir] Thank you, Mr. Chief of Staff. [end recording]

IDF Considers Proposal for Temporary Deportations

TA0801090592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jan 92 pp A1, 8

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces], at the staff command level, has been preparing for the possibility that Palestinians in the territories might be expelled for defined periods, an idea raised yesterday by the chief of staff in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee as what he called "thoughts merely to be mulled over." Senior officials in Jerusalem said yesterday that the political echelon would study the proposal. Some 20 Palestinians have been deported with their own approval for predetermined lengths of time over the past four years.

Several weeks ago, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, ordered the staff commander to prepare ideas on deportations for a defined time. In recent days, IDF officers under Brigadier General Ze'ev Livne, deputy chief of operations, met for an initial discussion on the subject. Also participating in the discussions were Dani Yatom and Matan Vilna'i, the commanders of the Central and Southern Commands; Brig. Gen. Ilan Schiff, the military advocate general; members of the office of coordinator of activities in the territories; and representatives of the various security branches.

The military advocate general expressed opposition to the proposal and his view was supported by other military jurists. Brig. Gen. Schiff does not see any significant difference between regular expulsions and deportations for defined periods. He and other officers said in the discussion that international protests against expulsions would not change even if a date were set for the deportee's return.

Other participants in the discussion also disputed the chief of staff's view that the defense establishment will be able to deport more people for set periods, than for unrestricted periods. They stressed that the decision to deport Palestinians is a final move, taken only after all other procedures have been exhausted. A senior military source said: "If a person is suspected of terrorist activity, he is detained; if he continues with that activity, he is put under administrative detention; only after all those measures are exhausted can he be deported. It is inconceivable to take somebody not first placed under administrative detention and expel him, even for a restricted period. It will not stand up under appeal to the High Court of Justice."

Senior military sources yesterday said that the chief of staff's proposal would be ineffective. "Such a move would not have an impact in the field. It would also be very difficult to decide who is a candidate for expulsion for a fixed term and who for permanent expulsion. In the past, similar ideas—such as the possibility of deporting a Palestinian and permitting his return to the territories only if he was not active against the state while abroad—were bandied about. That idea was also dropped because it would have been ineffective."

Further discussions on the issue are due to take place in the IDF very soon. The military advocate general, the commanders of the various regional commands, and the coordinator of activities in the territories are due to present their views to the chief of staff. The IDF spokesman refused last night to confirm or deny the staff discussions. "I am not prepared to discuss internal IDF discussions," he said.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens' stand is unknown. No representative participated on his behalf in the initial discussions, only someone representing the coordinator of activities in the territories. Dani Nave, Arens' media adviser, refused to say whether Baraq advised Arens before raising the idea in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. [passage omitted]

Appeal Deliberations Over Deportations Deferred

TA0701153892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] The Central Command committee discussing the appeals of the prospective deportees today accepted the request of the attorneys to defer its deliberations until after the Christian holidays this week. The deliberations will therefore resume on 13 January.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the committee, headed by Lieutenant Colonel Yosef Hiqri, today reviewed the restricted material submitted to it concerning the prospective deportees.

Riots Staged To Protest Deportation Decrees

TA0701175192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Report by correspondent in the territories Moti Amir]

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the peace talks will leave for Jordan tomorrow morning, en route to Washington. This afternoon, the delegates received a message from the PLO's political leadership advising them to get ready for departure. East Jerusalem sources noted that the UN Security Council decision to condemn Israel satisfied the PLO and the peace process will continue, while protests and pressures will be employed in the territories and outside Israel to rescind the deportation decrees.

Several riots were staged today in the territories to protest the deportation decrees. Ahmad al-Shaykh, aged 43, was killed in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza by fire of the security forces. His body was snatched from the hospital. The incident took place when some 200 residents erected roadblocks and pelted the security forces with rocks. Two border policemen were injured in the incident. Official military sources reported that three rioters were injured by the security forces' fire. They received medical treatment and were sent home. Gaza residents, however, noted that 20 residents were injured in the shooting, three of them seriously.

In East Jerusalem as well, the police dispersed a demonstration of several hundred people protesting the deportation decrees.

The attorneys of the 12 prospective deportees appealed today to the High Court of Justice, asking that it order the advisory committees at the regional commanders' offices that the deliberations of their appeal be open to the public and not held in private.

Commentary, Editorial Discuss Deportation Issue

Effectiveness of Deportation Argued

TA0701151092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jan 92 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "As Long as They Shoot"]

[Text] The decision to deport 12 Palestinians may have not been necessary at this particular point in time, or at any time at all. Exactly one month before the question of the loan guarantees is due for discussion, one day after the Knesset approved a budget that allocates funds for one-fourth of all of Israel's building activities to be conducted in the territories and for paving numerous bypass roads in the West Bank—the world may justifiably think that somebody is trying to establish faits accomplis.

However, the moment the entire world lashes out at us and argues that deportations will harm the peace process, I find myself on this side of the fence. This is because as long as the other side continues to wage a full-fledged war against us—with stones, knives, firebombs, and firearms—Israel is entitled to defend itself in any way and with every means the defense establishment deems fit.

One may argue about the effectiveness of deportation. From the time the government started deporting Arabs in 1967, defense officials under eight different governments—including the Israeli Army which favored the latest ones—have argued that this is the most severe and toughest punishment in the book. Men are uprooted from their homes and exiled, their families are occasionally left without a breadwinner, and the act itself brings shame on the deportees and their surroundings. Whether deportations are an effective measure is arguable.

Supporters claim that deportations destroy the infrastructure of underground cells and deter other activists. Opponents claim that deportations harm Israel more than they harm the Palestinians. The fact is that although 1,200 Arabs have been deported from the territories since the beginning of Israel's rule, this has not prevented the outbreak of the intifadah or the deterioration of the situation in the territories.

This point is hard to prove, just as it is hard to prove the contrary. But, we cannot argue with the fact that after 25 years of Israeli rule in the territories the Palestinians have not become Israel-lovers. In reality, both peoples are in a state of war which can only be solved through an accommodation. This assessment is supported by all the professionals in the defense establishment.

Until such an accommodation is attained, however, the purpose of the defense establishment is to lower the level of violence in the territories through a combination of measures. Many of these measures are not particularly nice, in our eyes or in those of the world. Nobody will say that deportation is worse than the demolition of a house, that the demolition of a house is worse than administrative detention, that administration detention is worse than a curfew, that a curfew is worse than collective punishment, and that collective punishment is worse than plastic bullets. If it does not condemn us for the deportations, the world will condemn us for the curfews, the administrative detentions, or any other measures we take at any point in time.

We are losers in any case when it comes to world public opinion, for the simple reason that the Palestinians enjoy the world's sympathy as a people living under occupation and striving for independence, just as we enjoyed the world's sympathy when we were fighting the British. Whatever they do they will be understood. Us, they do not and will never understand. This reality means that we should be extra careful and watch our step. In principle, however, as long as they stab and shoot we have the right to defend ourselves.

Although the Likud's intentions are not above suspicion, it is hard for me to accept the current argument that Israel should abstain from enforcing measures to defend itself so as not to harm the peace process. Our chief detractors, France and the United States, did far worse things, each at its own turn, while they were negotiating an accommodation. In the midst of the talks between the French Government and the Algerian rebels the two sides stepped up the armed struggle. While Dr. Kissinger was talking peace with a Vietcong delegation, the U.S. military stepped up the bombings on Vietnam. Eventually, the exacerbation of violence in the midst of the talks did not prevent accommodations in both arenas.

The talks, which have not yet even reached the start-off line, may yet reach a point where both sides decide to lower the level of violence or even to stop the fire. However, as long as the Palestinians see themselves free to act and continue to wage all forms of guerrilla warfare against Israel despite the fact that the talks are already under way, it is hard to deprive Israel of the right to respond and defend itself in whatever way it deems fit.

The foregone conclusion from this vicious circle of violence is that an accommodation must occur soon. However, as long as one is not attained, the rules of the game will be as follows: Everybody will shoot, shoot and talk, talk and shoot, until common sense and moderation on both sides eventually has the upper hand. Until then, there is a great measure of hypocrisy in the demand that Israel alone should contribute to the "atmosphere of peace" by turning the other cheek.

Deportation Decision Questioned

TA0801121292 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Jan 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Relations at Lowest Ebb"]

[Text] Government spokesmen—Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and the prime minister's media adviser—spoke about the disappointment with the Security Council's one-sided resolution, but those authorized spokesmen hid from the public the much more bitter

truth: The fact that that resolution points like a barometer to the unprecedented low ebb in relations between us and the United States.

Not only would a denunciation not be approved in that forum without the agreement of the United States, but in this case the United States took the trouble to toughen up the relatively moderate wording proposed by the PLO.

Has anybody in Jerusalem asked himself what that means and what the repercussions are for the foreseeable future? Did those who decided on the deportations on the very eve of the renewal of the talks with the Palestinians take into account the consequences of their move in the political sphere. Do the decisionmakers plan to implement their decision and take the risk of openly violating the resolutions of that forum, which since the Gulf war is no longer something to be dismissed lightly?

Is there anybody in Jerusalem who knows where he is leading Israel?

Inner Cabinet Debate on Autonomy Postponed

TA0701201792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] The inner cabinet session scheduled to discuss tomorrow the autonomy offer to be made to the residents of the territories has been postponed. Minister Yuval Ne'eman fell ill and asked the prime minister to postpone the debate.

As will be recalled, the Tehiya and Moledet movements are threatening to quit the government and make it fall if autonomy is offered to the Palestinians in the peace talks. Moledet is even threatening to quit once the inner cabinet approves the presentation of such an offer.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the inner cabinet debate will probably be held in a week. Our correspondent has learned that today as well the prime minister's bureau tried to inquire with the right-wing ministers just how determined they are to quit and whether there is a way to enable them to stay in the government which has already pledged to offer the Palestinians self-administration.

Next Vote for Direct Election Bill Set for 13 Jan

TA0801101792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] On Monday, the Knesset plenum will vote on the motion to return the bill for the direct election of the prime minister to the Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee for another hearing. A decision to that effect was made a short while by the Knesset Presidium. The motion will be voted on after the no-confidence motion submitted by Knesset Member Charlie Biton. [Reporting on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 8 January, David Ze'ev says that "Law Committee Chairman Uri'el Linn of the Likud called for a vote to return the bill to his committee. Linn said that because substantive amendments were passed, the time had come to bring it back."]

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the presidium did not address the problem that arose following the inaccurate vote count in one of the ballots last night. The matter will be decided by the Knesset speaker at a later date.

'Harsher Measures' Againt Settlers Considered

TA0501124492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Excerpt] In the Gaza Strip, a general strike was declared this morning to protest Israel's decision to expel 12 Palestinians from the territories. Jewish settlers this morning blocked roads and marched in the territories, as security forces continued their search for the killers of Doron Shorshan. Police Inspector General Ya'aqov Terner warned the settlers that if they go on blocking roads the police will take the necessary measures to ensure a free flow of traffic. Steve Linde reports:

There is anger in the territories today: anger among Palestinians who declared a general strike in the Gaza Strip and a partial one in Janin and Nabulus; anger among Jewish settlers who blocked roads and handed out leaflets to Arab residents declaring that if Jews could not live peacefully in the territories then neither would Arabs.

There was also anger in the Army and police force. Soldiers stopped settlers from entering the Nabulus casbah, and evacuated settlers from the Nabulus-Qalqilyah road at the Tapuah junction. Six settlers were detained by police after throwing stones at Arab cars.

Police Inspector General Ya'aqov Terner, who visited Giv'at Ze'ev junction this morning, said the police would take the appropriate steps against settlers to ensure that the roads remain open. After discussions on the subject the police announced they would be stepping up arrests and taking harsher measures against settlers disrupting order. [passage omitted]

Building Policies in Territories Under Attack

TA0701162092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Minister Sharon's building policy continues to be the target for attacks by leftist Knesset members. Knesset Member Hayim Oron of MAPAM [United Workers Party] and David Zucker of the Citizens Rights Party today revealed Construction and Housing Ministry documents about the scope of building in Judaea and Samaria. Oron and Zucker make the claim, based on the documents, that 25 percent of public building during Minister Sharon's tenure is being conducted in the territories. The total cost of the building is 3.5 million shekels [figure as heard] with which 18,000 building units were set up. The regional councils in which most of

the building took place are Ari'el, Samaria, and Binyamin, with 2,500 building units in each, and in Ma'ale Adumim with some 3,000 building units. The Knesset members said that the data does not include the 5,000 small mobile homes in the territories nor the 15,000 building units put up in the Gaza Strip.

To sum up, Oron and Zucker say, the Construction and Housing Ministry's policy, as shown clearly by the data, constitutes a real danger to any chance to achieve peace and to receive the loan guarantees from the U.S. Administration. The Construction and Housing Ministry responded by saying: The ministry builds in accordance with government resolutions and the order of priorities decided by it and according to the Budget Law.

Settlements Lead to Inevitable Confrontation

TA0701151692 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jan 92 p B1

[Commentary by Avraham Tal: "An Investment in a Bleak Future"]

[Text] How many millions are budgeted for building, infrastructure, and maintenance of Jewish settlements in the territories? Does it involve an annual outlay of hundreds of millions of shekels or billions? Only very few budgetary directors and settlement leaders can answer those questions, and maybe even they cannot. The sums diverted to the territories every year come from various sources, take on diverse forms, and are directed at different targets. In addition to the objective difficulty of calculating the total funds flowing into the territories, there is a clear impression that those involved are doing their best to obscure the data. It is a fact that precise information cannot be reached on even the overall scope of state budgetary allocations.

On a multiyear basis there is no doubt that the amount allocated for developing Jewish settlement in the territories is already being measured in tens of billions of shekels. Translating those huge amounts into facts on the ground can be done by anybody travelling the roads of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip: An infrastructure has been established already capable of serving a Jewish population of 120,000 (with some 30,000 adults above the age of 18) and perhaps more.

Large sums from the state budget will be appropriated for the territories this year as well. There are no verified data on the total allocations. Some 171 million shekels are directly and overtly budgeted this year for investment in infrastructure (mainly roads), new settlements, and the expansion and maintenance of existing settlements. In addition, various sums are allocated to the territories directly through the various ministries (education and culture, labor and welfare, etc.) Investment in infrastructure via Bezeq, the Israel Electricity Company, Mekorot, and others are not done through the state budget. Some 5,000 building units in the public sector will be started in the territories this year in addition to building that had previously been planned. Due to that, settlement leaders can look forward with certainty that in late 1992 the existing settlements and the new ones will be capable of absorbing many more inhabitants, and of perhaps fulfilling their target of 200,000 Jewish inhabitants.

What will be the outcome of this enormous settlement drive? The settlement leaders have no doubts, it assures that the territories will become an inseparable part of the State of Israel. The facts created on the ground will not permit, in their view, reaching any other outcome whether at the negotiating table, or, if there is a need, on the battlefield. On the last point, we should add that some of the settlers openly, and perhaps most deep in their hearts, hope for a decisive outcome which resolves the problem of the Arab Palestinians through a radical solution based on the precedent of the War of Independence.

There is, however, also another possibility. Things will continue as they are now for some time; in other words, a situation in which there is no unequivocal outcome. Jewish settlement will continue to grow from year to year (but with no chance of keeping up with the Arab population growth) despite the confrontation with the hostile Palestinian environment. If the chance of reaching a political settlement, whether voluntarily or by dictate, is given the importance it deserves—close to zero—and the possibility of an extremist decision—in other words, following a military confrontation—is rejected, then continued development along the present lines is the most reasonable prospect. Jewish settlement will grow and bloom while at the same time the bloody clashes between the Palestinians and Jews on the roads and, later, also on the edges of the settlements and then inside them will continue and worsen.

Settlement leaders and politicians belonging to the extreme right wing believe that "terror can be put down," but experience in various parts of the world proves that terror is the only phenomenon that cannot be uprooted within a democratic framework or by using draconian measures, which the settlers are pondering. Moreover, the problem is not only "terror" in the strict sense of the word, but the wide ranging and unavoidable confrontation between populations with opposing interests incapable of identifying with the same target. The last decade of the century has shown once again in various corners of the world that ethnic confrontations are the source of the worst and most dangerous disputes.

If Jewish settlement in the territories is viewed from that angle, an astonishing picture emerges: Israel is probably the only country in the world which invests enormous resources in people and materials to artificially create demographic conditions necessary for an ongoing ethnic confrontation, similar to that between the Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland, the Serbs and Croats in former Yugoslavia, and many examples in the former USSR and in the most isolated corners of the world.

From that viewpoint, it is a waste of casualties. Firstly, all those good and industrious Israelis who are suffering meaningless deaths on the roads in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, which in the long run will not serve any

useful purpose for the Jewish people, are regrettable. Secondly, the billions of shekels allocated to the territories are a waste; they do not serve any useful purpose in the long run, and in the short term they detract from the limited resources at the disposal of Israeli society to meet pressing needs and to alleviate poverty.

Population at 5.05 Million; 170,521 Immigrants

TA0101121692 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Jan 92 p 6

[Report by Nehama Dowek and Yotam Navin]

[Text] Israel's population totalled 5.05 million at the end of 1991. Last year, however, witnessed a drop in the rate of population growth compared to 1990. In 1990 the population grew by 5.7 percent, compared to 4.7 percent in 1991.

The population total includes the residents of Israel within the Green Line, on the Golan Heights, in East Jerusalem, in settlements annexed to Jerusalem by the Jerusalem Law, and in the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria. Approximately 900,000 residents of Israel are not Jewish.

The number of immigrants that arrived in Israel during 1991 was 170,521. At the beginning of the year there was talk of 500,000 immigrants coming, but these predictions grew smaller as the increasing difficulties in absorbing the newcomers in Israel became evident.

Toward the end of December there was a sudden increase in the rate of immigration. The forecast for December was 7,000 immigrants but 11,007 eventually arrived, out of which 10,149 came from the Soviet Union. The reasons for this upsurge in immigration are the availability of many direct flights, the sea links with the Soviet Union, and the decline of the economic and political situation in the various former Soviet republics.

MK Submits No-Confidence Motion Over Poverty

TA0701154792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Charlie Biton [of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] today submitted a motion of no-confidence in the government because of the spreading poverty, as proven by the National Insurance Institute data. He called on all the opposition parties to initiate a joint motion of no-confidence. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in his arguments for the motion MK Biton says that the data show that the rise in the level of poverty is not accidental but is a result of an ongoing policy where each year is worse than the one before it.

Deqel Named New Agriculture Ministry Head

TA0601115992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jan 92 p A1

[Report by Hayim Bi'or]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday decided to place Mikha'el Deqel in charge of the Agriculture Ministry following Refa'el Eytan's resignation from the cabinet last week. Likud sources explained that Shamir chose not to appoint a minister to head the Agriculture Ministry at this stage in order to avoid confrontations with ministers from his own party.

Deqel, who in the past served as deputy agriculture minister and deputy defense minister, will hold get-acquainted meetings with ministry officials and the water commissioner, Professor Dan Zaslawsky.

Deqel is currently a settlement adviser in the Prime Minister's Office and is considered one of Shamir's closest associates and his confidant. In the past, Shamir wanted to appoint Deqel as a deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office, but the determined opposition of Foreign Minister David Levi torpedoed the move. When he was an Agriculture Ministry official in the early 1980's, he earned the nickname "the bulldozer" in reference to his approach to settlement in Judaea and Samaria.

Currently, Deqel heads a Likud committee in charge of winning immigrants over to the Likud Party. The Justice Ministry is currently conducting a probe into his activity in the territories, which made Shamir angry at Justice Minister Dan Meridor.

Following the elections campaign in 1984, charges were pressed against Deqel in the Tel Aviv District Court for making construction permits conditional on donations to the Likud while serving as a Likud Knesset member and as deputy agriculture minister. Deqel denied all the charges. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin 'Adviser' Prefers Embassy in Jerusalem

TA0501182892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Report by Mikha'el Tuchfeld]

[Excerpts] This is not the time to expel people, says Dr. Aleksandr Bovin, Russia's ambassador to Israel. Peace processes are based on the quest for compromise, and they are obstructed by extreme decisions by any one party. [passage omitted]

Addressing the Bar Ilan University academic staff and immigrant students, Bovin added that Russia's relations with Israel have recently changed track, but at the same time, glasnost and democracy have encouraged anti-Semitic organizations which are trying to blame the Jews for the economic crisis. The ambassador hoped the first trend would prevail. [passage omitted]

The ambassador was accompanied by Nikolay Shishlin, the Russian president's political adviser [name and title as heard], who said that Russia is reassessing its relations with the Arab countries. The Gulf war has proved that the united Arab world does not exist any longer, that it is but a myth. What exists nowadays is a dangerous pan-Islamic force. The Arab countries' dictators—former officers and colonels who have usurped power—can no longer rely on Russia, said Shishlin. Friendly relations with al-Qadhdhafi and 'Arafat do no one any credit, he added. [passage omitted with Shishlin's remarks in Russian]

We have repelled the nuclear threat, and we will take action toward a reduction of strategic arsenals. I hope, said Shishlin, that neighboring republics, such as Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus will follow suit.

He further said that the emigration from Russia to Israel will enhance the ties between the two countries. Israel ought to take advantage of its relations with Russia in its search for peace.

Shishlin lauded Ambassador Bovin, who resides in Tel Aviv, adding: I hope that soon Bovin will be the ambassador in Jerusalem.

[Begin Shishlin recording, in Russian] Moscow could do nothing, so it sent him [Bovin] to Tel Aviv, but I would have preferred him to be sent to Jerusalem. [applause] [end recording]

Mubarak Sends New Year Greetings to Shamir

TA0701120092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has sent greetings for the New Year to President Herzog, Prime Minister Shamir, and Foreign Minister David Levi. In the messages, the Egyptian leader expresses the hope that 1992 will bring peace to all the peoples of the region. Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic correspondent points out that the message to the foreign minister is a relatively rare occurrence in international relations, and in the cable to Foreign Minister Levi, Mubarak says he takes great pleasure in sending the warmest personal greetings for his success and happiness.

Shamir Replies to Mubarak

TA0801125792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today conveyed a reply to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's New Year's greetings. In his message, Shamir says that Israel is encouraged by the fact that we have at last embarked on the path of peace. We realize that the process may be long and arduous, but we are determined to pursue it with patience and tenacity, writes Shamir.

3 Civilians Cross Border, Detained by Egypt

TA0501210892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] The Egyptian authorities detained three Israeli civilians near Tabah when they erroneously crossed the border near Tabah. The names of the three are: Eliyahu Tetler, 'Amir Aridor, and Ro'i Balker. The Israeli Embassy in Egypt said it knows nothing about the incident. An Egyptian official reported that the three Israelis which were detained near Tabah did not carry any illegal merchandise or weapons and noted that they are currently undergoing interrogation.

Closure of Shiite Village in South Lebanon Denied

TA0601103392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] The Lebanese Red Cross claims that the South Lebanese Army [SLA] has imposed a closure on the Shiite village of Rshaf, on the border of the security zone, and that the villagers are near starvation. Last week terrorists tried to perpetrate several attacks near this village.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that soldiers from the Nepalese UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] contingent tried to bring supplies and food to the besieged village yesterday, but SLA soldiers stopped them.

In response to the UNIFIL complaint, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reported that no closure has been imposed on the village and that UN soldiers may enter the village today undisturbed.

Attempt To Breach al-Ghanduriyah Denied

TA0801114592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Finnish soldiers from the UN contingent in southern Lebanon were summoned to the Shiite village of al-Ghanduriyah on the border of the security zone last night, after local residents claimed that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops tried to enter the village. The residents used privately-owned weapons to shoot at the spot from which the soldiers were allegedly penetrating.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the SLA deputy commander said that there has been no attempt to penetrate the village, and that the affair was a Hizballah attempt to sow panic.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 8 January reports: "The International Red Cross asserts that the SLA siege of the Shiite village of Rshaf in southern Lebanon is in its 10th day. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that UN and Lebanese Red Cross trucks drove into the village this morning carrying flour, milk, blankets, and medicines."]

Commentary on Need To Keep Local Arms Secret

TA0201113792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jan 92 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Edge Lies in Disparity"]

[Text] Every U.S. President since Lyndon Johnson has announced and publicly undertaken meticulously to maintain Israel's qualitative edge in the military power balance in the Middle East. They have made the appropriate pronouncements and taken pains—each in his own way—to keep their promise. Even when disputes and disagreements arose between Israel and the United States—during President Carter's term, for instance—Washington took pains to prevent the Arabs from concluding erroneously that the balance of power was tilting in their favor. When the weapons supply to Israel was temporarily suspended during President Ronald Reagan's term in office, the administration took the trouble to signal to the Arabs that there was no intention of abandoning Israel to their military pressures.

Various methods, both direct and indirect, were employed to maintain the qualitative gap: Israel was given equipment at least one degree more sophisticated than that received by the Arabs; it received advanced technology for the local development of weapons and equipment; and it was given vital intelligence data. All these preserved Israel's qualitative edge, which helped compensate for the Israeli-Arab quantitative gap.

The Gulf war changed the situation. The party responsible for tipping the delicate balance is none other than the United States. On the one hand, the Iraqi war machine was dealt a powerful blow, but on the other, Washington has been funneling weapons and the latest technology to its Arab allies against Iraq. The impression is that this funneling knows no inhibitions. The Americans hasten to supply almost anything the Arabs request and can pay for. The Arabs have received equipment, weapons systems, and munitions they had never hoped for. In the past, even Saudi Arabia, Washington's close friend, had been forced to struggle in Congress for such supplies, but the situation has now changed. When Israel purchases a few Patriot batteries, the Saudis receive dozens of the same. The same happened with Apache fighter helicopters and other items.

Israel's past decisions on purchases from the United States were made on the assumption that anything it received from the Americans would be given to the Arabs at a later stage. In several instances it consciously passed certain purchases, and the Americans showed understanding for its approach. Today, the opposite sometimes happens: The Arabs receive equipment that Israel does not have and that it is only planning to request.

The U.S. weapons industries, which were forced to reduce the scope of their operations in the wake of cutbacks in the U.S. defense budget, are loath to miss the opportunity. They are pressuring the administration to respond favorably to every Arab request. On the other hand, heads of the Taiwanese and Brazilian weapons industries have been complaining that since the war the Middle East markets have been closed to them because the Americans and the British have been selling their finest military technologies. Having seen the Gulf war battlefield, the Arab armies are no longer interested in crude technology. Fortunately, Syria has not as yet been entered on the list of U.S. weapons buyers, but soon it will be allowed to purchase advanced military technology in West Europe.

The heads of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and particularly of the Air Force, are concerned about the upset in the qualitative power balance. Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, the departing Air Force commander, blamed the Americans for this in a lecture at the Israel Institute of Technology. Defense Minister Moshe Arens, in his meetings with U.S. representatives, never misses an opportunity to refer in very harsh terms to the eroding qualitative edge. One such opportunity was the visit of the U.S. Air Force chief. The American guests were in a quandary when asked how Washington is assisting Israel in preserving the qualitative gap. Their reply was very simplistic. As in the past, they contended that Israel's standard of human resources and good sense will help bridge the new gaps.

This is the official reply, but in private conversations, senior U.S. officials are willing to concede that a problem exists. They would like to stop the process, but the counterpressures are weighty. The U.S. Army, for instance, would be willing to waive the Apaches to which it is entitled to enable Israel to procure them more rapidly. This attitude is offset by the pressures exerted by the American weapons industry and the desire to avert layoffs in the United States. This discord implies unpleasant surprises for Israel.

We know from past experience that the U.S. weapons industry and its champions do not remain impassive in similar debates. To blunt the effect of attacks from Israel and its supporters, they deliberately let secret material leak out. To counter the talk about the danger of Israel's losing its military prowess, they painstakingly leak out information about its nuclear capability, citing again and again the number of nuclear bombs at its disposal. To silence the criticism of weapons sales to Arabs, they either accuse Israel of illegally passing U.S. technology to forbidden countries or of illegally using U.S. aid funds.

From Israel's viewpoint, another conclusion is in order. Israel will have to do a better job of preserving the qualitative gap achieved thanks to the inventiveness of its scientists and engineers in the defense and other industries. This is the homemade edge. For the same reason, it is vital that Israel make a sevenfold effort to prevent exposure of its secrets and to resist the temptation to impress the Americans with its ingenuity. The dollars earned in these deals are very important—even for the defense industries themselves—but a handful of dollars cannot always be the answer to everything. It is

the duty of the defense minister and the director general of his ministry to retain a balanced approach and to prevent an exaggerated flux of secrets that can be used to surprise the enemy in the battlefield.

U.S. Pressure Prevents Syrian Missile Deals

TA0701184592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Citing informed sources, our correspondent Dani Levi reports that the recent deals concluded by Syria with the PRC and North Korea to provide it with long-range surface-to-surface Scud and other missiles have not yet been implemented due to the pressure being exerted by the United States on these two countries. It is worth noting that Syria has reached agreement for the delivery of a nuclear reactor from China for research purposes only.

'Apprehension' Over U.S. Probe on Procurement

TA0701143892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jan 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Over the past year, the U.S. authorities have conducted numerous investigations into the activities of the Israeli Defense Ministry's procurement delegation in the United States. The investigators are probing procurement deals made in recent years which were financed with U.S. military aid funds. [passage omitted]

The Defense Ministry has decided to cooperate with the U.S. investigators, who will be given all the information they request. According to U.S. elements, the investigation is low profile and is officially defined as "a reassessment of regulations and working procedures" by Pentagon and the procurement delegation, not as a criminal investigation.

The U.S. investigation has given rise to apprehension in Israel, although defense establishment figures said that the Israeli establishment does not fear the possible revelations as much as the possibility that the investigation's findings will be used for political ends; for instance, the military aid may be slashed against the backdrop of the extended crisis in relations with the United States. The defense figures believe that the Americans are taking advantage of the revelations of corruption which surfaced in the Dotan affair [in which Brigadier General Rami Dotan was indicted for fraud and bribery of U.S. officials in 1991] to deepen the inspection of the defense establishment's activities in the United States.

Defense establishment figures estimate that the probes are often prompted by pressures from the U.S. defense industries, which are bearing the brunt of economic difficulties and are against providing the Israeli industries with jobs. The figures added that the U.S. industries have been applying pressure on the administration and congressmen, and the pressure has resulted in probes; in certain cases, the investigation of various deals was suggested by Israeli advisers working for U.S. industries. [passage omitted]

Delegation To Leave for U.S. Within 'Next 2 Days'

JN0701181192 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] In a statement he made a short while ago, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir said that the Jordanian delegation is expected to leave for Washington within the next two days.

Palestinian Delegation Arrives; 'Ashrawi Comments

JN0801131392 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Palestinian delegates arrived in Amman today en route to Middle East peace talks in Washington, and said they had resolved procedural differences with Israel that blocked the last round of negotiations.

Delegation spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said there was a good chance that talks would quickly move from procedural matters to substance. She said they all determined to get into the negotiating room, referring to the last round of talks that ended on December 18 with negotiators rambling in the corridors over splitting the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation into separate teams.

Arab delegations delayed their departure from Washington in protest at an Israeli decision last week to expel 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

A United Nations Security Council condemnation on Monday of the expulsion order paved the way for Arab participation. 'Ashrawi said under an agreement reached with conference cosponsors—the United States and Russia—the heads of Palestinian and Israeli teams would hold a preliminary meeting next week in Washington. She said separate meetings between Israeli negotiators, Palestinians, and Jordanians would follow, adding that the Palestinian delegates have already agreed with the Jordanians that there will be Palestinian presence on the Jordanian side, and Jordanian presence on the Palestinian side.

Israel has staunchly opposed a complete split in the Jordanian- Palestinian delegation calling it de facto recognition of Palestinian statehood. 'Ashrawi said the cosponsors agreed that the Jordanians and Palestinians would be solely responsible for forming sub-committees to discuss substantive issues. She said Israel had accepted this formula.

The talks were scheduled to start on January 7, but all Arab delegations delayed their departure. The Israel team left for Washington last Monday.

A Syrian official said last night that the Syrians, Lebanese, and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation had agreed to leave for Washington within two days.

A senior Israeli official said the latest round of talks could be short-lived since the Israeli delegates have informed the United States they intended to return to Israel on the evening of January 15. That would leave room for only four days of talks at the most.

'Arafat Departs After 'Successful' Visit

JN0701182092 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this evening following a three-day working visit to Jordan and Syria. During the visit to Jordan, he was received by His Majesty King Husayn. The two leaders evaluated the peace process in light of the recent developments, and exchanged views on various aspects and dimensions of it. The Palestinian president said his talks in Amman and Damascus were successful.

PLO's Qaddumi Ends Visit, Departs for Tunis

JN0801132392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, left Amman for Tunis this morning following a visit to Jordan lasting several days during which he held talks with various officials. Leaving aboard the same plane for Tunis were Salim al-Za'nun, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council, and Hakam Bal'awi, ambassador of the State of Palestine in Tunis.

UN Resolution Welcomed, Implementation Urged

JN0801102492 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Jan 92 p 1

[Editorial: "We Welcome UN Security Council Resolution...But...."]

[Text] We can only welcome UN Security Council Resolution 726, which strongly condemns Israel's decision as an "occupying power" to deport 12 Palestinian civilians from the occupied Palestinian territory and requests Israel to refrain from further deportations and to ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all deportees.

Such a bold resolution reflecting the conscience of the world and the legitimacy of the regulations, laws, and conventions dignifying human rights and banning the expulsion of individuals from their own country—especially one under occupation—can only be welcomed by us.

However, to applaud a resolution is one thing, to see to its implementation is another. The latest Security Council resolution is only one in a long list—all condemning Israel's deportation of Arabs from their ancestral homeland, but none were followed through, or complied with by Israel. Has Israel ever deferred to the will of the international community represented by the United Nations and the Security Council? Has the international community access to such powers, measures, and sanctions that will make Israel respect the resolutions of the world body? If it so wishes, the

international community can make Israel act on the resolutions of the world body. When the United States and its European allies have a mind to see to the implementation of a resolution, they invoke all means at their disposal to that end—from trade and political sanctions with their attendant hunger, disease, and poverty, through to war and its attendant carnage, destruction, and devastation, as was the case with respect to the UN Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq..!

But Israel is a wholly different proposition; all UN and Security Council resolutions passed since 1948 have remained mere ink on paper. International legitimacy has failed to assert itself, and the major powers have failed to act on their resolutions, with the result that Israel has persisted in its stubborness and arrogance and disregard for all these resolutions.

What use are Security Council resolutions if they are brushed aside by Israel? What use is U.S. support for the latest condemnatory resolution if this is not backed by firm action toward Israel's excesses and abuse of basic human rights of the Palestinian people? What use is the European condemnation of the expulsion order if this is not backed by vigorous and effective action to curb Israel and its oppressive posture? More than lip service is needed. Resolutions will not do the job. Those who are convinced of the justice of these resolutions will have to work toward their implementation, which is what we expect from the United States, other major powers, and all the nations of the world. The rights of the Palestinians are clear-cut, and just like any other nation on earth, they are entitled to security, stability and independent, national sovereignty.

Abu-Jabir Meets Polish Deputy Foreign Minister

JN0801144892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir met with Polish Deputy Foreign Minister (Jan Majefski) today. He reviewed with him developments in the Middle East and efforts related to continuing the peace process in order to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. During the meeting, they also discussed issues of mutual interest and ways to strengthen bilateral relations in all fields, especially economic and trade.

(Majefski) explained Poland's view with regard to developments in Eastern Europe and the events leading up to them. During the meeting, the Jordanian side stressed the need for Poland to double its efforts in pressuring Israel to comply with the requirements of peace, particularly withdrawal from the Arab occupied territories and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

Improvement in Ties With Iran Due to Sudan

PM0801104892 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jan 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Sudanese Mediation Between Jordan and Iran"]

[Text] Amman—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, has intervened with Iran to improve its relations with Jordan, in the wake of the noticeable Sudanese-Iranian rapprochement.

A Jordanian parliamentary source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Sudanese-Jordanian and Sudanese-Iranian contacts have been made in recent weeks at leadership level in all three countries. The source added that this resulted in King Husayn of Jordan sending an official invitation to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Jordan as an official culmination of the efforts to develop Jordanian-Iranian relations. The sources said that the main aim of the recent visit to Jordan by the Iranian president's assistant was to making the necessary arrangements for this visit, which is expected to take place soon.

Jordanian-Iranian relations were at their lowest ever ebb during the Iran-Iraq war, because Jordan sided with Iraq in the war with Iran.

Political circles in the Jordanian capital indicate that there will be some kind of rapprochement in Jordanian-Sudanese-Iranian-Yemeni relations soon, thanks to the current contacts in which Sudan is playing a principal role.

The political circles also highlight the current expectancy and suspicion in Baghdad connected with these new moves, commenting that the Jordanian moves in this direction are hampered by extreme caution, for fear of the United States' and the Western states' rejection of such a rapprochement, which emerged in the wake of the Sudanese-Iranian alliance, which has assumed an "Islamic revolutionary" cooperation dimension.

Delegation To Leave for Washington 9 Jan

NC0701203792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz announced a short time ago that the Lebanese delegation to the Middle East peace talks will leave for Washington on Thursday, 9 January, for the third round of bilateral talks. Buwayz was in contact with several Arab foreign ministers throughout the day to reach a coordinated policy on the third stage of talks. As a result of these contacts, Buwayz instructed the Lebanese delegation's chairman and members to leave for Washington on Thursday.

Buwayz described the UN Security Council's resolution condemning Israel's decision to deport 12 Palestinians as an honorable stance that restores the international community's credibility and ends our reservations about resuming the negotiations.

Syria's Khaddam Comments on Talks, Departs 7 Jan

NC0701182092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Report on statement and news conference by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam with unidentified correspondents following his meeting with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and other Lebanese officials, by Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din from the Presidential Palace on 7 January—recorded]

[Text] The Lebanese-Syrian talks held in the Presidential Palace today ended a short while ago following which Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam made a lengthy statement. Khaddam stressed that the ministers boycotting the cabinet meetings need to participate because, he said, there is no justification for opposition outside the government. He said he expects the Arab-Israeli negotiations to resume shortly following the Security Council's resolution on the Palestinian deportation issue. Here is Khaddam's statement following the talks:

[Khaddam] I am visiting Lebanon as part of the ongoing consultations and exchange of views between Syria and Lebanon. We have reviewed current regional developments regarding the peace process and how to strengthen the Arab side's position. We also reviewed the latest developments in Lebanon within the framework of implementing and consolidating the National Accord Charter. We agreed about the importance of cooperation between the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese people to confront the current stage. It pleases me to say that I return home satisfied with the responsible spirit that prevailed during our discussions with President al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker al-Husayni, and Prime Minister Karami. They all realize the importance of cooperation, joint action, and cohesion to confront the current stage, and they address all issues according to the Lebanese Constitution and the National Accord Charter. This was the substance of our talks.

[Question] Mr. Vice President: It has been reported that your visit is connected to the differences between the president and the speaker. Have you reached any agreement on this issue?

[Khaddam] It is unfair to say that there are differences between the president and the speaker. His excellency President al-Hirawi has always emphasized that he will adhere to cooperation and joint action, so has his excellency Speaker al-Husayni. It is only natural that different views emerge in various governmental branches. What matters is whether these different views are addressed within the framework of national interests, which is what has happened here.

[Question] Certain ministers who are boycotting the cabinet meetings or not participating [words indistinct]?

[Khaddam] This issue was addressed, and I believe that the ministers who have boycotted the cabinet meetings will do their duty; the country's interests require that all ministers shoulder their responsibility. If an official has certain views on an issue, he must address it from within the establishment, not outside it.

[Question] Do you think that the ministers boycotting the cabinet meetings will take part in the upcoming meeting?

[Khaddam] I hope so. I believe that the ministers boycotting the cabinet meetings realize their responsibilities and will participate in the upcoming meeting or the following one.

[Question] The Arab delegations have postponed their departure to Washington due to the Israeli decision to deport a number of Palestinians. Are there any new developments?

[Khaddam] The Arab parties adopted a unified stand on this issue. In view of the Security Council resolutions, contacts are under way among the Arab parties to adopt a unified position to confront he future stage of the negotiations.

[Question] Do you expect the peace talks to resume shortly?

[Khaddam] Yes.

[Question] Mr. Vice President, certain articles of the al-Ta'if accord, which Syria supports, have not yet been implemented due to problems with some ministers. I am referring particularly to the article on the return of the evacuees. What will Syria do to implement this article?

[Khaddam] You know that the national accord program covers many issues resulting from a war that lasted over 15 years. I do not think that the issue is one of a minister or two hampering the process. I believe that this issue must be discussed by the government in a comprehensive way so as to serve the national accord and enhance national unity. The issue must be discussed by the government. I do not believe that any minister is opposed to implementing the national accord articles.

Raising this issue separately, as if there were a problem between a certain minister and the evacuees, is not objective. There has been a problem involving the evacuees in Lebanon since 1975 and it must be addressed within a comprehensive framework, not separately. The only place qualified to address the issue is the cabinet.

[Question] There are reports that a cabinet shuffle is imminent. Have you discussed this with his excellency the president?

[Khaddam] It is not our business to discuss this type of issue because it concerns the Lebanese Government and people.

[Question indistinct]

[Khaddam] This march will continue and will achieve its goals, God willing. An obstacle may emerge here or there, but the Lebanese Government is now capable of overcoming such obstacles.

[Question] Have you discussed the articles that have and have not been implemented of the al-Ta'if accord?

[Khaddam] Of course, we held a comprehensive discussion of various aspects of the situation. We analyzed the views and ideas of the president, the prime minister, and the speaker.

[Question indistinct]

[Khaddam] Absolutely not. There is complete agreement and good coordination between the Syrian and Lebanese parties.

[Question] Would you tell us something about U.S.-Syrian ties? Reports indicate that the ties are cool these days because of the situation in Lebanon?

[Khaddam] There is nothing new in relations between the United States and Syria. Our ties are normal, and I have no impression that there is anything new.

[Announcer] Syrian Vice President Khaddam left Beirut for Damascus this evening.

Clashes Continue in South, Enemy Advance Thwarted

NC0801082792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] At 2200 yesterday, the Islamic resistance thwarted a large-scale attempt by the Zionist enemy and its agents to advance into Wadi Hujayr at the entrances of Frun. The mujahidin set up ambushes for the advancing forces backed by tanks from the opposing locations in 'Alman, al-Shumariyah, and Mazra'at 'Adshit al-Qusayr and showered them with machine-gun fire and rockets. The enemy suffered great casualties, which they have not yet been able to remove from the battlefield. Cannons provided cover for the enemy approach.

The enemy left behind huge amounts of explosives, revealing its intention to carry out sabotage and destruction operations against our people's villages in the liberated areas. Islamic resistance sources have reported that there is suspect enemy movement along all contact lines.

Earlier reports from the south said Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Kafr Rumman, and the Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah were shelled by enemy cannons yesterday morning. The shelling went on for about an hour causing only material damage. Sniper fire continued until noon. During the past 24 hours Zionist occupation forces brought many armoured vehicles to the contact lines in the eastern sector, leaving 12 in Kawkaba, Zaghlah, and Shwayya.

At dawn yesterday Lahd agent militia posts in Zummarayya launched heavy machine-gun fire toward al-Dahr and al-Wastani heights for an hour. Yesterday morning a group of agent forces combed Zaghlah, Abu-Qamhah, Hasbani, al-Khiyam, al-Dardarah, and Tall al-Nahas.

Israeli Warplanes Overfly Sidon, Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC0801104692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over eastern Sidon and Iqlim al-Tuffah in southern Lebanon this morning.

Hizballah Urges Pressure To Lift Rshaf Siege

NC0801090192 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] A responsible Hizballah source made the following statement on the Zionist siege on Rshaf:

The siege imposed by the Zionist occupation forces on the oppressed and steadfast southern township of Rshaf is one more example of Zionist terrorism that strikes at citizens indiscriminately, terrorism that a few days ago killed and wounded scores in al-Bastah—and before that struck in Jibshit and Majdal Silm—cowardly terrorism that takes revenge on our steadfast people and brothers who reject normalized relations or any other form of submission to the occupation.

The situation in Rshaf is tragic, especially now that it is bitterly cold and people's need for foodstuffs and fuel increases. We urge all local and international humanitarian organizations to bring the necessary aid to the besieged people. We also ask the Lebanese Government to perform its duty, exert efforts, and put pressure on the international community to lift the siege.

Once again we reject the disregard and silence that always meet Zionist aggression and exacerbate its effect and severity on our steadfast people, who lack the means to go on.

Minister Expects Germans To Be Released 'Soon'

NC0701170692 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib has told the newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAYT that he expects the two German hostages to be released soon. He pointed out that a dialogue is underway to close the hostage file, adding that all those who used to kidnap foreigners have stopped now that they have discovered it is an unsuccessful political method and unacceptable on the humane and international levels.

French National Found Shot Dead in Beirut

NC0501123992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] A French Embassy source has stated that French national (Jean Paul Catal), 53, was found dead in his house in al-Ashrafiyah yesterday. According to preliminary reports, the dead man, who was employed by the Hotel Dieu Hospital, was shot with a gun with a silencer. The reports did not state whether he was murdered or committed suicide.

Reportage on Activities of President al-Hirawi

Comments on National Issues 4 Jan

NC0401124992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Excerpts] President Ilyas al-Hirawi said today that political differences should not be taken personally, especially now when all Lebanese need to stick together, mentioning the issue of the two laws [not further specified]. He said that the president has the right to return laws to the Chamber of Deputies, which, in turn, has the right to debate and vote on them again. He reiterated that majority rule is constitutional.

Al-Hirawi noted the state's internal debt and weak financial capability, saying that the pay increase cost the state $600 million. [passage omitted]

The president urged all Lebanese to support Lebanon's delegation in Washington, adding that no party should malign the delegation or its performance. We went to the peace conference because we truly want peace, he emphasized, adding: We will not rest until the south has been liberated.

Meets Cardinal O'Connor

PM0701192592 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jan 92 p 2

[Walid Shuqayr report: "Al-Hirawi Warns That Fudamentalist Trend Would Grow If U.S. Position on Israel Remained Ambiguous"]

[Excerpts] Beirut—The visit to Beirut of Cardinal John O'Connor, Roman Catholic archbishop of New York, was an opportunity for Lebanese senior officials to raise some questions and make some observations to him about the U.S. position on Lebanon, the situation in the region, and Arab-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. [passage omitted]

President al-Hirawi's meeting with O'Connor availed the president of the opportunity to explain his views on the negotiations with Israel and his belief that the situation was still ambiguous and required a boost to the negotiations to put the Arabs on the way to fulfillment of Arab and Lebanese rights through the peace talks.

Asked by O'Connor for his views on the peace efforts, al-Hirawi repeated what he had previously said to U.S. officials, namely that "if no pressure is exerted for the implementation of UN resolutions, the region would strongly turn to Islamic fundamentalism in the face of Western and U.S. disregard for its rights."

According to official sources, al-Hirawi cited the fundamentalist victory in Algeria as an example, pointing out that "that may be the beginning of its spread to the Arab Maghreb, other North African countries, and the rest of the African Continent, where that trend is growing, as was evident at the Islamic conference in Dakar and indeed in some oil countries in the region."

The sources said that "al-Hirawi stressed to O'Connor that Washington should not fall into the trap based on the claim that it could cooperate with the fundamentalists because of its past unsuccessful experiment with Iran. If you think you have gotten rid of the Soviet giant, another giant might emerge and grow quickly. You are not alone in the world and, despite everything, you would not be able to control it."

As al-Hirawi emphasized that Israel must be forced to make concessions in the face of these possibilities, O'Connor asked about Syria's position. The Lebanese president affirmed that "Syria is the strongest state in the region now as far as its structure and its regime's cohesion and freedom of movement are concerned, but if the states concerned fail to establish a just peace, Damascus would have to go along with the other extremist trends enhanced by the absence of acceptable peace."

O'Connor asked what Lebanon's position would be in that case. Al-Hirawi stressed that "Lebanon, in turn, would be unable to resist what would emerge as a result of the failure to find a settlement. I previously said that we would give diplomatic efforts a chance, but if they failed to restore the south then we would all become part of the resistance. Lebanon is only a drop in the ocean that the region represents and would not be isolated from it."

Urges Politicians To Help Build Homeland

NC0501180392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has urged politicians to take part in building a homeland, not independent cantons. He called for the liberation of the south because

without it, there will be no salvation for Lebanon. He emphasized that the south is the focus of the government's attention because there cannot be permanent peace in Lebanon unless the south is liberated.

President al-Hirawi expressed surprise at what is being raised about a dispute between the president and the chamber of deputies' speaker. He noted that constitutional practices govern their work. He hoped that the proposed draft law on the media, which a special committee is working on, will be satisfactory to all parties.

President al-Hirawi made these remarks during a meeting with reporters accredited to the presidential headquarters. The president asked: For how long will we continue to destroy one another? He noted that some people are watching from abroad; these people were the cause of all the country's problems. President al-Hirawi urged people to file complaints against officials, starting with the president himself. He denounced those who consider a difference in views between one official and another as the beginning of a grinding war in the country even though they know that war has gone away for good. President al-Hirawi wished success for the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks.

Speaks With Diplomats, Seeks 'Assistance'

NC0601123192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1020 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi to heads of diplomatic missions in Lebanon on 6 January in Beirut—recorded]

[Excerpts] Your excellencies, thank you for the genuine sentiments in your new year wishes to Lebanon and myself. Today you stand beside the Lebanese people who are determined to achieve reconciliation and maintain cohesion. Lebanon has come a long way toward peace and is now striving to consolidate independence, recover and rebuild. [passage omitted]

Lebanon has achieved a lot by consolidating security on its territories but its greatest achievement is its commitment to freedom. By recognizing the Russian Federation and the Baltic republics, Lebanon has confirmed that it respects the freedom of nations and the principles of freedom, right, and justice.

Our country has great potential. It also has a plan for salvation, the main features of which have been outlined in the national reconciliation accords. We must continue what we began.

Among our main objectives this year is to liberate the south and western al-Biqa' and to develop and rebuild.

Your excellencies, liberating the south and western al-Biqa' is one of our sacred rights and it must be recognized. Lebanon has not attacked anyone. Daily, our population in the south suffers arbitrary and humiliating measures.

We will not give up our national dignity nor will we compromise our national soil's integrity. We look to friends and brothers to help us implement international resolutions. We seek international legitimacy's support for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. What use is international legitimacy if its resolutions remain unheeded and it fails to safeguard rights and correct injustice?

Lebanon, a country that has known the woes of war, works to establish a just, comprehensive, and lasting regional peace based on right. It is our right that Israel should withdraw from our land. It should withdraw from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967 and Palestinians should be able to exercise self-determination. This much has been established by every international resolution.

We are closely following the talks involving our delegation to the peace conference. These should succeed because the Lebanese state is serious about its peace efforts.

Your excellencies, throughout last year we mobilized our resources and prepared to develop and rebuild. We want to establish a strong state which can implement its own policies over every inch of its land, enforce the law, and perform its duties and responsibilities to its citizens and anyone who lives in Lebanon. The state will not turn back from its efforts no matter how much some disaffected people may try to break the Lebanese resolve or thwart salvation.

We seek to build a modern state capable of playing its role at home, in the region, and the world. [passage omitted]

We greatly appreciate the international campaign to provide Lebanon with assistance and loans to rebuild its damaged infrastructure. We are still hoping for more assistance from your countries. Reconstructing Lebanon is a necessary guarantee for consolidating the peace efforts which we support at home and abroad. [passage omitted]

Islamic Figures Hail Algerian Election Win

NC0601112292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi has warned of the real dangers U.S. and Western agitation are posing Islam in Algeria. He said that the only way to save Algeria is to establish an Islamic state. Speaking at a rally organized by the Muslim Ulema Grouping in Sidon, his eminence denounced the suspect behavior of the anti-Islamic West's agents.

His Eminence al-Musawi said that Algeria's Muslims can express their opinion freely. He called for releasing hundreds of Muslim prisoners, including Abbas Madani and Mohammad Belhadj [leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS].

The Hizballah secretary general said: Some people who want to ban Islam are scared of the Islamic tide in Algeria. They would have welcomed capitalism even if it came on the back of tanks.

His Eminence al-Musawi said that the United States is the predominant power of our times and wants to stifle Islam's rise. He noted that Islam has proven its success several times, with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Palestinian intifadah, and the Lebanese resistance against the Zionist oppression in the south.

Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, said that Algeria's rulers have become America's agents on Algerian soil and in the Palestinian issue. He said: How long will these rulers serve imperialism's forces and why do Arab rulers view Islam's victory in Algeria so negatively?

Jibril said that the Palestinian people see what happened in Algeria as a great accomplishment restoring some balance after most of our rulers ignored Arab and Palestinian wishes and tried to make peace with Israel and recognize it as an integral part of our region. Jibril concluded by saying that jihad should continue until Palestine is liberated from the sea to the river.

Delivering the Islamic Front's speech, Shaykh Muharram al-'Arifi said that the Algerian people know they will have no dignity or power to fight their enemy unless they adopt Islamic principles. He denounced the campaign against the Algerian FIS.

Shaykh Sayyid Barakah, for the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, said that Islamists' victory in Algeria is a victory for a type of Islam that is not pro-American but is based on rejection, resistance, confrontation, and revolution.

Shaykh Ahmad al-Zayn praised the stride taken by the Algerian people and denounced the international campaign against Islam. He said: We have seen this happen in Lebanon. We have seen a sectarian plot against us, one that only benefited the Zionist enemy.

Dr. 'Ali 'Ammar spoke for the Islamic Grouping, hailing the Algerian people for opting for resistance by electing Islamic leaders. He said that this is a good omen for all Muslims.

Communist Party Renamed 'Lebanese People's Party'

NC0601182792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] Secretary General George Hawi has declared that his party still adheres to Marxism as a world order. He reiterated his rejection of capitalism in Lebanon and as a world order. He affirmed his conviction in socialism as an alternative and more just order. He stressed, however, that the LCP should be distinguished from the collapsed Soviet Communist Party because the LCP has different tenets.

At a news conference held today, Hawi said that the Lebanese Communist Party has never been a part of the Soviet Communist Party and that his party was established independently. Hawi said that the party central committee has made a recommendation to change the name of the party to the Lebanese People's Party.

Delegations To Leave for U.S. Within 48 Hours

JN0701212092 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2112 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated the following: After consultations with the Arab parties participating in the peace talks, it was agreed that the Arab delegations will depart for Washington within the next two days so that they will be ready to resume the bilateral talks as of the beginning of next week.

Al-Shar', Qaddumi Discuss UN Deportation Stance

JN0701214492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2130 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi this evening. The meeting was attended by PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh; Ahmad al-Shihabi, director of the PLO Political Department in Damascus; Mustafa Qarashulli, a section head at the PLO Political Department; Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur; Muwaffaq al- 'Allaf, chief negotiator in the bilateral talks; and Majid Abu- Salih, the Syrian ambassador in Amman.

The two sides reviewed the current contacts among the Arab sides and the positions of the UN Security Council members in light of the council's resolution. They stressed their appreciation for the Security Council resolution, which reflects world unanimity on condemning Israel's violations, including deportation measures. This has helped the resumption of the Washington peace talks. The two sides hoped that the resolution would be implemented as soon as possible so as to formulate the bases and rules of world legitimacy.

Vice President Khaddam Returns From Beirut

JN0701212892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of the General Staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, returned to Damascus this evening at the conclusion of a short visit to Lebanon. During the visit, they met with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. [passage omitted]

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

JN0701190892 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Damascus, 7 Jan (SANA)—Mr. Stoyan Ganev, Bulgarian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Bulgarian charge d'affaires in Damascus and his senior staff.

In a statement to SANA, Mr. Ganev described Syrian-Bulgarian relations as strong and good. He called for promoting these relations, especially in the economic field.

Asked about Europe's role in pushing the Middle East peace process forward, Ganev said that not only Europe, but the entire world is viewing a solution to the Middle East issue with some kind of optimism.

He said his country believes in the need for the Middle East peace efforts to succeed because a solution to the Middle East problem will ultimately serve the region and its peoples.

Commentaries View Peace Talks, Israeli Actions

World Intervention Against Israel Urged

JN0301153392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1245 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Only a few days before the resumption of the Washington talks, the enemy government has resorted to a series of provocations and flagrant attacks on Arab citizens, openly violating international laws and charters, especially the fourth Geneva convention. This is a clear message to the world and to the parties that are sponsoring the peace process, stressing Israel's intransigent attitude and its refusal to abide by UN resolutions, which require from it definite commitments, such as withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

War minister Moshe Arens has announced the deportation of 12 Palestinian citizens from their homeland, contravening the UN Security Council resolutions which condemn such savage measures and call on Israel to return all those exiled and deported over the past few years. Moreover, there has been an escalation in the barbaric acts of the settlers, and their attacks and terrorist actions. They have not spared a single village, spreading destruction and crime in the occupied territory. They are like wild and rabid packs of wolves, incensed by racist madness and black rancor. They resorted to establishing a settlement in the Gaza Strip, which is crowded with Arab inhabitants, and started provoking our people and threatening to commit massacres if anyone opposed them or if the Arabs showed resistance and continued to support the intifadah.

The fact is that the criminal behavior of the settlers reflects the expansionist policies of Shamir's government which rejects just peace. This government made the decision of arming the settlers and organizing them in military units and entrusting them with attacking Arab cities and villages. This government earmarked almost $7 billion in the 1992 budget for the building of settlements in the occupied territories and absorbing tens of thousands of Jewish immigrants. It is encouraging the extremist religious parties to voice opposition so that it

will later announce its acquiescence in their demands, in terms of expanding the settlement process to avert an alleged government crisis.

In evaluating the Israeli extremists, we find facts proving that Yitzhaq Shamir is the most extremist and aggressive, that he is very eager to polarize all the other extremists, such as Sharon, Eytan, Ze'evi, and Ne'eman. In his private and public utterances, Shamir reiterates that the West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem, and the Golan, are an integral part of the land of Israel, that he will never concede one inch of the alleged land of his forefathers, and that the Arabs will have to wait much too long if they believe that Israel will withdraw from the occupied territories, grant the Palestinians any rights, or stop even for one moment Judaizing the territories and planting them with settlements.

Shamir delegated the task of Judaization to his chief aide, Ari'el Sharon. On every occasion, Sharon announces that the settlements continue at high rates from the sides toward the center; that is from the Palestinian territory occupied in 1948 toward the West Bank and Gaza. The day may not be far off when the Palestinian Arabs would find themselves completely besieged with the completely changed features of their cities and villages, thus leaving them with only one choice; namely, mass emigration to the neighboring Arab countries.

It is natural that within the framework of this creeping annexation policy, the enemy government will resort in the peace talks to the method of stalling, evasion, dissipation of efforts, and raising issues that have no connection with the crux of the struggle, in an attempt to gain time and spread the feeling of frustration and hopelessness, creating the impression that the Arab- Israeli struggle defies all solutions. Meanwhile, a new demographic reality will be created in the occupied territories as a result of the growing Zionist settlements and the policy of advising the Jewish immigrants to live in these territories.

It is very important to continue Arab coordination, not only on the level of the Arab delegations that are participating in the peace negotiations, but also on the pan-Arab level with the aim of discussing the substantive issues without delay, foiling all Israel's evasive methods, and demanding an immediate freezing of the settlement process as an expression of commitment to the peace process. It is also important that the Arabs should face the international community with one effective stand, demanding a practical implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, especially since these resolutions are clear and frank, calling for stopping the settlement building and the annexation and Judaization measures, announcing the impermissibility of the acquisition of territory by forces, and calling on Israel to withdraw from these territories fully in exchange for peace.

The Israeli Government is planning to continue several years of sterile talks, during which time it will have changed the features of the occupied territories. It is the duty of the international community, and it is an Arab right that this community intervene strongly and firmly and put things in order, in terms of implementing international resolutions and related issues concerning the Palestinian people's rights and the withdrawal from the occupied territory, so the peace talks may not be transformed into Israeli theatrics, an insult to international and U.S. credibility, and a collapse of the UN reputation, prestige, and global role.

Arab Solidarity Needed

JN0401085092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Jan 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial headline "Feigned Skillfulness in Playing the Time Card," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that the Arabs, and Syria in particular, cannot accept the Washington talks being turned into an end irrespective of the circumstances and of the increasing Israeli threats. The paper adds that the peace process is clear and specific. It has known objectives and neatly drawn phases which must lead to a just, comprehensive peace based on international resolutions.

AL-THAWRAH reviews the international changes and Israel's attempts to exploit them to entrench its aggressiveness and expansion in the occupied Arab territories. AL-THAWRAH says: Israel is rejecting everything that has been established by the international community and defying the United States in its own capital city. Israel is trying to impose their conditions during the dialogue and the U.S.-sponsored peace process.

AL-THAWRAH adds: By attempting to waste time until the critical moment is reached when Bush and his administration will be pushed into making difficult decisions on the eve of the presidential elections in light of the Zionist lobby's role in these elections, Israel seeks to curb any firm U.S. decision on peace or any pressure on Israel to activate the peace talks.

AL-THAWRAH urges the Arabs to realize well that the peace process will be very long and that they should deal with this fact with effective solidarity and intensive political activity with the United States to make it reconsider its dealings with Israel by pushing it to the table of dialogue on the bases set for such a dialogue. This is in order to prevent the talks from turning into an end by themselves and to prevent peace and talking about peace from turning into an international comedy.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Any attempt at extortion or deviation is doomed to failure. The Syrian people, their leader Hafiz al-Asad, and the entire Arab nation reject any concession, relinquishment, or compromise over any inch of occupied Arab territory or the Palestinian people's rights. He who thinks himself to be skillful enough to play the time card will find that time is not in his favor irrespective of possibilities and repercussions, and irrespective of the situation that will emerge as a result of such violent international changes.

Importance of Coordination Emphasized

JN0701082592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Jan 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today the newspaper AL-BA'TH emphasizes the need for a cohesive Arab stand during these complicated circumstances facing the Arab nation. It notes the importance of intra-Arab coordination, which could constitute a strong shield to confront the intransigent Israeli positions which oppose the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace.

Under the headline "The Importance of Arab Coordination," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Israel has affirmed that it has never said that it might withdraw from the occupied Arab territories even if the Arabs conclude peace treaties with it. Indeed, it has reiterated its same old position, contending that it first went to Madrid and then to Washington to achieve peace in return for peace. As for the territories, this issue is not on Israel's mind, and furthermore, it is not even mentioned in its political dictionary.

AL-BA'TH adds: Certainly, the Israeli stand, which opposes the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace, must have become clear and well known to those concerned with Middle East peace.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: We need to talk about the need for a cohesive Arab position, particularly in these complicated circumstances. Israel is attempting to sidestep international resolutions and impose a fait accompli. The Arab position, therefore, remains the most important factor, because it would be the decisive factor in everything. Likewise, we Arabs should deal with our enemy in the appropriate way, particularly because it has not changed its aggressive and expansionist policy. It has continued to empty the occupied Arab territories of their rightful owners, and to declare that a withdrawal from the occupied territories is out of the question.

AL-BA'TH says: Given this current state of affairs, would it not be better for the Arabs to be more precise and concerned about their conduct, and consequently work together in all seriousness to crystallize an Arab position that would be capable of handling any future developments to help achieve a just and comprehensive peace?

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: We in Syria have repeatedly affirmed the importance of a cohesive Arab stand. We have also affirmed the need for full coordination to confront the Israeli positions, which oppose the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace.

Afghanistan

UN Special Envoy Holds Talks With Leaders

Received by Najibollah

LD0601161292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] According to BAKHTAR, this afternoon Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, received his excellency Benon Sevon, assistant secretary general of the United Nations, special envoy of the secretary general on Afghanistan, and coordinator of UN humanitarian and economic aid to Afghanistan, for talks at the presidency headquarters. Esteemed Najibollah spoke about recent developments in the country and the region and the efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan to achieve a political and peaceful solution to the Afghan problem. The esteemed president mentioned with pleasure the cessation of the supply of arms to Afghan parties as a first step toward a political solution to the problem. He asserted that this cessation should be observed by all those who finance the sending of arms, and that the sending of weapons to all parties should be ended.

The esteemed president added: In our opinion the UN secretary general's five-point plan is an acceptable and realistic basis for a political and peaceful solution to the Afghan problem. Our hope is that all the relevant sides shall, by truthful cooperation in implementing the plan, cooperate with the people of Afghanistan to ensure peace and to reconstruct their country.

Expressing pleasure at the efforts of the United Nations and its special envoy to find suitable ways to end the war and ensure peace in Afghanistan, the esteemed president said:

His excellency Benon Sevon, assistant secretary general, the UN secretary general's special envoy, and coordinator of UN humanitarian and economic aid to Afghanistan, has, by paying profound attention, given much impetus to the process of finding a political solution to the Afghan problem.

In response, his excellency Benon Sevon presented a report to the esteemed president on his recent meetings with the concerned sides and on the United Nations' measures in this respect. He praised the proposals and initiatives of the Republic of Afghanistan for truthful and cordial cooperation with the United Nations on the political and peaceful solution to the Afghan problem, and he expressed the hope that the United Nations will make comprehensive and much greater efforts to resolve this problem very quickly. The meeting was also attended by aide to the president Mohammad Ishaq Tokhi.

Meets Prime Minister

LD0601190992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] The prime minister's press office reported to BIA that Esteemed Fazl Haq Khaleqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, this morning received His Excellency Benon Sevon, UN assistant secretary general, the UN secretary general's special envoy, and coordinator of UN humanitarian and economic aid to Afghanistan, at the prime ministry building for a working meeting.

During the meeting views were exchanged on new developments in the situation for attaining a political solution to the Afghan problem, the impetus in cooperation to accelerate the process of intra-Afghan understanding and negotiation under the UN secretary general's five-point plan, and the good offices of the United Nations in this respect.

First, his excellency Benon Sevon furnished information to the esteemed prime minister on the continuation of UN efforts to reach a peaceful and political solution to the Afghan problem and for talks with the involved sides in the light of new developments in the situation, as well as preparations for cooperation to ensure peace in Afghanistan.

In response, Esteemed Khaleqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, in noting the continuation of the efforts of his excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar and his excellency Benon Sevon, his assistant and envoy, expressed the hope that his excellency Butrus Ghali, new UN secretary general, should pursue the UN efforts with more vigor and interest and that UN measures for the implementation of its five-point plan should acquire a fresh and effective impetus. Esteemed Khaleqyar also spoke about developments in the situation in the interest of peace in Afghanistan in national and international fields and gave assurances for any kind of positive and active cooperation by the state and Government of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning Afghans reaching an understanding and coming closer for the purpose of ending the war and ensuring peace.

Esteemed Khaleqyar emphasized the support of the people and Afghan Government for the five-point UN plan, which is in harmony with the wishes of the people of Afghanistan and the desire of the international community for a peaceful and political solution to the Afghan problem. He expressed his hope for an increase in UN efforts to implement the secretary general's plan.

Mohammad Da'ud Kawian, deputy foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, this morning met with His Excellency Benon Sevon. During the meeting they exchanged views on issues of mutual interest.

According to another report, Benon Sevon arrived in Kabul yesterday afternoon for a working visit. He was received at Kabul International Airport by the director of the UN department of the Afghan Foreign Ministry and the deputy head of the Protocol Department of the Afghan Foreign Ministry.

Envoy Departs; 'Very Optimistic'

BK0701165192 Hong Kong AFP in English 1648 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Kabul, Jan 7 (AFP)—United Nations special envoy Benon Sevon left Kabul Tuesday after a brief visit that took diplomats by surprise, and raised hopes of a breakthrough in the Afghan peace process.

U.N. officials said Sevon, who arrived here late Sunday, left after meeting President Najibollah and Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaleqyar on Monday.

In his talks with the Afghan leaders Sevon discussed the latest developments related to a five-point U.N. peace plan for Afghanistan, and pledged to continue his efforts to resolve the 13-year-old civil war.

Sevon has been shuttling between countries in the region in a bid to bring all parties involved to the negotiating table.

Informed sources quote Sevon as telling Afghan leaders that all countries involved in the conflict have agreed to contribute to expedite the U.N. peace move.

"I am very optimistic," Sevon was quoted as telling Prime Minister Khaleqyar.

Diplomats were taken by surprise and were unaware of Sevon's arrival in the Afghan capital until late Monday.

"Normally we get to know that Sevon is in town, this is a complete surprise. I wonder what's cooking," said a Western diplomat.

Official sources said Sevon did not bring any fresh proposals but had merely briefed the Afghan leaders on his discussions with all parties to the conflict.

He also discussed the implementation of the agreement between Moscow and Washington to stop from January 1 military backing to their respective proteges in Kabul and the mojahedin resistance, the sources said.

Najibollah stressed to Sevon that the step should be followed by "all other arms suppliers."

Kabul fears that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, two other important backers of the mojahedin, would continue to arm and fund the resistance.

The state-run BAKHTAR news agency quoted Khaleqyar as telling Sevon that the Kabul [government] would fully cooperate in efforts to narrow differences among various Afghan groups to help bring about an end to the war.

Khaleqyar also said that he hoped the new U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali, would follow "more seriously" the world body's peace initiative, the BAKHTAR said.

Diplomats here said Sevon's surprise visit assumed significance because he was keen to arrange an intra-Afghan peace dialogue early this year.

The Pakistan-based mojahedin factions have, however, refused to negotiate peace as long as President Najibollah is in power.

Hekmatyar Says Pakistan, Muslims Follow U.S.

BK0801100292 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 8 Jan 92 p IV

[Report by Shamim Shahid]

[Text] Peshawar—Engineer Golbuddin Hekmatyar. Chief of his faction Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, while opposing return of the former king to his homeland, alleged that some circles of Pakistan and Muslim world are following wishes of the Americans for the protection of their vested interests.

This he said while addressing a Press conference at Spinah Shagah [inside Afghanistan] here on Tuesday.

The Afghan leader alleged that now when the American Government had changed its policy towards Afghanistan, Pakistan is still following Washington. He was of the view that some circles of the Muslim world, for the protection of their rulingship, want to honour decisions of America which could convert Afghanistan into an other Lebanon.

Commenting on [Pakistani] Chief of the Army Staff's meeting with former Afghan King. Golbuddin said that according to his information, Gen. Asif Nawaz held a meeting with Gen. 'Abdol Wali in Rome.

The Afghan leader reminded that earlier, Benazir Bhutto in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat told him to accept Zaher Shah but he refused the proposal because the ex-King is controversial figure. He further said that an important person of the present government also proposed him to accept Zaher Shah but they refused. He made it clear that Mojahedin would continue their armed struggle if any force tried to impose the former King on them. He claimed that ex-King was rejected by the majority of Afghans, so it was impossible for America and its supporters to bring an end to ongoing war in Afghanistan but it could be another Lebanon in this region.

Referring to interests of Pakistan in early settlement of the Afghan problem, Golbuddin said that Pakistan wants to establish trade and economic ties with Central Asian States but who will guarantee restoration of a peaceful atmosphere in Afghanistan after the return of Zaher Shah. He has also expressed concern over the policy of Iranian Government which reportedly accepted proposal of Zaher Shah. He added that they did not expect such treatment from Pakistan and Iran at this last stage when Afghans are near to achieve their common objectives.

About future set-up of Afghanistan, Golbuddin reiterated his claim that no one can rule that country without support of the Mojahedin. He added that he proposed all of his colleagues for creating a joint consensus on an interim government. After setting up the said interim body a general

election should be held for the transfer of power through a democratic ways. He aded that his party has no wishes to participate in the proposed interim government but wants a unity among all of Mojahedin in this connection. He also claimed that Afghan problem could be resolved within six months accordance to their wishes.

When diverted his attention towards agreement signed between Mojahedin and Russians for the release of prisoners of war, the Afghan leader said that he had no concern with such accord. He added that POW's are trump cards with them and said that those who wants early release of the Soviet prisoners, should think about the Mojahedin prisoners along with 40,000 missing. He informed that Mojahedin planning a big attack on Kabul which he said will be started soon. He also alleged that supply of goods from Russia to Afghanistan still in progress.

It may be mentioned here that Peshawar-based Hezb-e Eslami of Hekmatyar proceeded the newsmen to what they called inside Afghanistan on Monday. The venue of the Press conference is situated just near to the Pak [Pakistan]-Afghan border only 25 kilometres away from Parachinar headquarter of the Kurram agency.

Bangladesh

Meeting Held With Burma To Ease Border Tension

BK0701160892 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Bangladesh and Myanmar [Burma] has had their second flag meeting at Teknaf, in Cox's Bazar District, to defuse border tension.

A Foreign Office spokesman in Dhaka today said the two sides began the meeting about seven hours behind the schedule as the Myanmar team did not turn up in time. An 18-member Myanmar delegation, including two platoon commanders, of the border security forces, accompanied by a media team, attended the meeting. This is the second flag meeting between the two countries following Myanmar troops' attack on a BDR [Bangladesh Rifles] outpost on the 21st of last month.

Meanwhile, Myanmar Foreign minister Ohn Gyaw is expected to visit Bangladesh this month to discuss bilateral issues. He expressed his willingness to have discussion with Foreign Minister Musatfizur Rahman when Bangladesh Ambassador Mustafa Farooq Mohammad called on him in Rangoon yesterday. The Foreign Office spokesman described the attitude of the Myanmar foreign minister reflected during his talks with the Bangladesh envoy as positive. He expressed the hope that ongoing efforts to lessen the tension along the border of the two countries will produce meaingful results.

Burmese Muslims Continue Entering Country

BK0801031092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Bangladesh and Myanmar have had their second flag meeting at Teknaf, in Cox's Bazar District, to defuse border tension. An 18-member Myanmar delegation, including two platoon commanders of the border security force, accompanied by a media team, attended the meeting. This is the second flag meeting between the two countries following the Burmese attack on a BDR outpost on the 21st of last month.

A Foreign Office spokesman in Dhaka said as a neighbor keen to resolve conflict through discussions, Bangladesh urged the other side for the flag meeting for defusing the tension along the border. Rangoon responded and the first flag meeting resolved to initiate efforts aimed at restoring normalcy along the frontier. Bangladesh also insisted that the second flag meeting be followed up with more such meetings, making it a regular feature to ensure peaceful border.

According to official sources, at least 1,000 Rohingya Muslims have entered Bangladesh through different border points during the last few days.

India

Solanki, UK's Baker Hold Talks on Terrorism

BK0801041292 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1603 GMT 7 Jan 92

["Spokesman's Statement on Meeting Between British Home Secretary Kenneth Baker and External Affairs Minister Madhav Singh Solanki"]

[Text] Briefing newsmen, spokesman said that British Home Secretary Kenneth Baker had a meeting with Indian External Affairs Minister [EAM] Madhav Singh Solanki this morning. British home secretary was assisted by High Commissioner of Britain in India, Nicholas Fenn. External affairs minister was assisted by Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit, Secretary (West) I.P. Khosla, High Commissioner of India to Britain L.M. Singhvi and other officials. Spokesman elaborated that two ministers had wide-ranging discussions covering international situation, developments in region, and bilateral issues. Principal focus of discussion was on dangers of terrorism, and efforts being made by both countries to cooperate in this field. Talking about dangers inherent in rising tide of religious fundamentalism, external affairs minister said that such forces pose a particular threat to democratic societies, like India.

British home secretary reciprocated apprehensions, expressed by external affairs minister, and said that fundamentalism often took form of state repression, and that this phenomenon led to exodus of thousands of people from several countries seeking political asylum. Spokesman affirmed that both ministers agreed that

fundamentalist forces, since they affect youth of many countries, were a major problem and had to be tackled jointly by democratic countries like India and Britain. Spokesman further elaborated that external affairs minister said that where fundamentalism was combined with terrorism, it posed an even greater menace to pluralistic societies like India. In this connection, external affairs minister expressed warm appreciation for many steps that British government had taken, and is continuing to take to cooperate with India, to combat evil of terrorism.

British home secretary said that Britain had experienced dangers of terrorism often tinged with fundamentalism, at first hand. There was, therefore, great understanding in Britain, of problems that India was facing, in this regard. British home secretary said that Britain would be happy to consider a new extradition treaty in order to bolster our joint efforts to combat terrorism. British home secretary further referred to many legislative steps taken by Britain to prevent illegal movement of money and laundering of money collected for ostensibly charitable purposes, but, used actually for questionable political objectives. British home secretary expressed hope that India would continue to cooperate with Britain in strengthening these measures.

Spokesman said that responding to EAM's suggestion that India be associated with Trevi group in European Community, British home secretary assured that Britain would convey to its EEC partners that India was a genuine "victim state", and that India's experience in dealing with terrorism could be usefully used by European Community.

External affairs minister also gave a detailed and comprehensive exposition of Pakistani involvement in terrorism in India. He gave documentary evidence to British home secretary to prove nexus between elements in Pakistan, their mentors in other countries, including Britain, and operatives in India. Spokesman elaborated that external affairs minister referred to blatant acknowledgement by so-called prime minister of Pakistan occupied Kashmir, which has appeared in local press, admitting that Pakistan was abetting terrorism in India. Responding to external affairs minister's remarks, British home secretary assured that Britain deplores terrorism in all forms, but, particularly abhors state-supported terrorism. British home secretary said that Pakistan had been told about Britain's views in this regard in no uncertain terms, and on several occasions. He said that Pakistanis had been told that it is not in interest of any government to support terrorism. British home secretary said that this made it all more imperative that India and Britain, and other like-minded countries in world, must unite against terrorists and their operations, which had international dimensions. British home secretary further said that terrorists, even though usually comprising small groups of people, are able to cause untold human misery, perpetrate indescribable violence, and create political instability.

Spokesman ebaborated that two ministers then discussed human rights related issues. External affairs minister gave a detailed briefing to British home secretary, and handed over written material showing how rights of Indian citizens were adequately safeguarded by open and democratic political system. British home secretary expressed complete understanding for very difficult situation that democracies like India and Britain find themselves in, on question of human rights. Our open societies enable our own citizens and citizens of other countries, to scrutinize closely work of our security forces. Our security forces had an extremely difficult job when faced with terrorist situations. He said that it was important that India continue to refute allegations made in certain quarters, about alleged violation of human rights. He said that it was regrettable that many human rights groups rarely spoke of violation of human rights of victims of terrorism. In this context, he spoke of 70 people who had been victims of terrorism in a train near Ludhiana, "whose human rights had been terminated for ever".

Commentary Says Baker Visit Positive

BK0501083892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Sunil Roy commentary]

[Text] India and Britain have taken a significant step toward finding a solution to handle the scourge of terrorism, which both countries consider a global issue. A major breakthrough in this regard became almost an instant reality during the British Home Secretary Mr. Kenneth Baker's current official visit to India.

In the recent period there has been satisfactory cooperation between the two countries in tackling anti-India terrorism launched by subversive militant groups based in the UK. The British Government has taken stern action by launching prosecution against terrorists, besides taking several measures that include the issue of deportation orders. The British Government has reiterated at the highest level its willingness to cooperate with India to combat the evil of terrorism. It is in this context that Mr. Baker's talks with the minister for external affairs, Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki, and the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, produced some positive results. Foremost among the decisions taken is that both countries will shortly conclude a new extradition treaty, outside the existing one and within the Commonwealth framework, to deliver a death blow to terrorists operating in the UK against India.

Both countries also agreed that the rise of religious fundamentalism combined with terrorism posed a great threat to pluralistic societies like India. Mr. Baker was conscious that militants in the UK often collect funds ostensibly for religious purposes but use them for questionable political activities. Both sides agreed that funds belonging to terrorists and drug traffickers should be seized. Another issue discussed was the confiscation of property belonging to terrorists. Comprehensive lists of terrorists were also exchanged.

What is assuring is that Mr. Baker came with an open mind, as he fully understood the problem faced by India. With an understanding to firmly deal with UK-based terrorist elements, it would be easier for India to receive the same appreciation from the rest of the nations constituting the European Community. Mr. Baker goes from India to Pakistan fully posted with documentary evidence that shows Pakistani involvement in dispatching armed terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir. He was reasonably convinced of India's concern and would now be able to talk to Pakistani leaders with firsthand knowledge and not merely conjectures.

Mr. Baker noted that India, Britain, and other like-minded nations must get together to combat the menace of terrorism.

Minister Asks Pakistan To Stop Aiding Militants

BK0801145492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said Pakistan should desist from interfering in India's internal affairs and stop aiding and abetting terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir. Addressing a press conference in Lucknow today, he said the center is in touch with Islamabad for stopping supply of arms and providing training and finances to militants operating in India.

Mr. Chavan pointed out that sophisticated arms and ammunition will be imported to equip the security forces in dealing with the terrorist activities. He said an integrated plan is to be prepared to deal with the terrorist menace in the country. Mr. Chavan assured the Uttar Pradesh Government all possible assistance to check the militant activities in the Tarai region.

In reply to a question, the home minister said the India-Tibetan border police will be deployed in some strategic points on the India-Nepal border.

Exchange of Nuclear Data With Pakistan Welcomed

BK0401120292 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Commentary by P. Dev Kumar, UNITED NEWS OF INDIA special correspondent: "Mutual Inspection of Nuclear Installations by Pakistan and India"]

[Text] The exchange of documents between India and Pakistan in connection with the 1988 agreement on nonattack on each other's nuclear facilities should go a long way in removing mutual suspicions about their nuclear designs. This agreement was conceived in December 1985 when General Zia visited India. At that time, Pakistan was seething with rumors that India was planning to attack the Kahuta nuclear plant in collaboration with Israel. The rumors had created a high-pitch, anti-India frenzy in some sections of the Pakistani population. It was amidst this that the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Pakistan's President Gen. Ziaul Haq agreed to sign the agreement. However, the agreement could not materialize during Gen. Zia's lifetime because of disagreement on some details. It was only when Ms. Benazir came to power that this agreement could be signed during Mr. Gandhi's visit to Islamabad in December 1988 during the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meeting. But this agreement remained ineffective because Pakistan hesitated in disclosing the sites of its nuclear facilities as had been provided in the Rajiv-Benazir agreement.

It is significant that Pakistan finally agreed to provide the required list only after its Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's proposal in June last year for a five-nation consultation on making South Asia nuclear weapon free. India rejected this proposal outright as a rehash of Pakistan's earlier proposals for making South Asia a nuclear-free zone. Pakistan has since used this proposal as a propaganda against India in the United States and other countries. But its refusal to provide a list of its nuclear facilities in accordance with the 1988 agreement came in the way of the credibility of its nuclear-related propaganda against India. And that is perhaps the reason why Pakistan has finally decided to do the needful.

The agreement entered earlier provides each party shall refrain from undertaking, encouraging, or participating in directly or indirectly any action aimed at causing the destruction of or damage to any nuclear installation or facility in the other country, and that the term nuclear installation or facility includes nuclear power and research reactors; fuel fabrication, uranium enrichment, isotopes separation and reprocessing facilities; as well as any other installations with fresh or irradiated nuclear fuel and materials in any form; and establishments storing significant quantities of radioactive materials. Each contracting party shall inform the other on January the 1st of each calendar year of the latitude and longitude of its nuclear installations and facilities whenever there is any change.

Now that this agreement has become effective on the New Year's Day, one should hope for a better level of relationship between the two countries. But again, everything depends on intentions. Secretary General in Pakistan's Foreign Ministry Akram Zaki has told the Voice of America that the agreement would help in easing tension, but Kashmir continues to be the main stumbling block in the normalization of India-Pakistan relations. There is another stumbling block in the process of normalization. Since the days of Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Pakistan has declared that it must become a nuclear power. As early as 1965, Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, then foreign minister of Pakistan, saw in the nuclear energy the source of military supremacy and world recognition. He played an important role in laying the foundation of the weapon-oriented nuclear program.

Dr. A.Q. Khan, who built the clandestine Kahuta plant with nuclear secrets from the Western countries, was the find of Mr. Bhutto. The Kahuta plant was Mr. Bhutto's brainchild, and as the world reports go, it is here that

Pakistan has been quietly working on a nuclear bomb. Subsequently, Dr. Khan claimed that they have made enough success to produce a nuclear bomb. India, on the other hand, has declared a policy of not using its nuclear capabilities to produce a bomb. Thus, for effective peace between India and Pakistan, Islamabad will have to assure India that it has no nuclear weapon intentions. Also, it has to desist from activities such as supporting terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir and revert to the spirit of the the Simla agreement.

Manipur State Placed Under President's Rule

BK0701164292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Manipur has been placed under president's rule. The proclamation to this effect has been issued in New Delhi under Article 356 of the Constitution. The state assembly has been kept under suspended animation.

Briefing newsmen, the official spokesman said the union cabinet recommended imposition of president's rule in the state after considering two reports sent on Friday and Sunday last by the governor, Mr. Chintamani Panigrahi. The governor has said that a politically untenable situation has been created in the state following the speaker of the assembly disqualifying some MLA's [member of the Legislative Assembly] and the Supreme Court setting aside his decision. The governor has also said that the loyalties of some MLA's have been changing.

Our correspondent says the state, which has been witnessing political turmoil for some time, plunged into a crisis following withdrawal of support to the ULF [United Legislature Front] ministry headed by Mr. R.K. Ranbir Singh by the Janata Dal MLA's. Earlier during the day, one more minister resigned from the United Front ministry and declared that he will support the Congress-I in forming an alternative government. The minister of state for education, Mr. Tanghkhanlal, said that his resignation is in protest against the government's recommendation to dissolve the state assembly. With this the strength of the Congress-I and its allies has gone up to 37 in the 60-member assembly. The house has an effective strength of 57.

The outgoing Manipur chief minister, Mr. R.K. Ranbir Singh, has sharply reacted against placing the state assembly under suspended animation. He said the state assembly should have been dissolved and a fresh mandate (?forcing) the people. On the other hand, the Congress-I legislature party leader, Mr. R.K. Durendra Singh, welcomed the move. He said the situation could have been averted if the Ranbir Singh ministry resigned as soon as it was reduced to a minority.

The president of the Manipur Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr. M. Bharat Singh, said that it would have been better if the state assembly was dissolved.

The Manipur unit of the CPI [Communist Party of India] has also preferred the dissolution of the assembly.

Exports Record 'Modest' 5.5-Percent Increase

BK0301153892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] More decontrols in the trade policy are on the anvil. The commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, stated this while addressing a seminar organized by the forum of financial writers in New Delhi today. He said this was necessary as the measures taken earlier were inadequate for a radical increase in India's exports.

Reviewing the country's export performance in the first six months of this year, Mr. Chidambaram said the country has achieved a modest growth of 5.5 percent in exports to hard currency areas. He said the imports came down by about 8 percent as compared to the previous year.

Iran

UN Representative Denies Nuclear Arms Purchases

LD0801114392 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] United Nations, New York, Jan. 8, IRNA—Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations in a statement here Tuesday refuted allegations in 'LOS ANGELES TIMES' on Tehran's alleged nuclear purchases from the former Soviet republics and North Korea. The daily relying on unknown American intelligence sources claimed that Iran is busy purchasing tanks, fighters, missiles and nuclear technology from the former Soviet republics. A U.S. State Department spokesman on Tuesday expressed concern over the alleged report saying that the U.S. secretary of state will discuss the issue with the Russian authorities in his forthcoming visit to Moscow. The spokesman however agreed that Washington had no evidence to prove the allegations.

The Iranian statement said "such articles build upon public hysteria, exploit the political atmosphere, using only sources that cannot be verified by nature like what is conveniently called intelligence sources." It noted, "in light of the massive destruction sustained by Iran during eight years of war (1980-88 Iraqi war), on the one hand and the prevailing atmosphere of gradual cooperation between Iran and the states of the Persian Gulf area on the other, Iran is focusing on reconstruction of the country and not on military build up, as a glance at Iran's five-year plan would clearly illustrate."

Iran is for creating a political environment in the Persian Gulf region based on "cooperation, good neighbourly relations, mutual respect and non-intervention in internal affairs of one another," said the statement adding "Iran is fully cognizant of the fact that military build up in the region is a function of perception of threat and military imbalance." "Iran's nuclear program is completely aimed at peaceful purposes and Iran fully complies with its commitment under the non-proliferation treaty...Iran has been on the record since

1974 as the initiator of nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East," said the statement.

Prayer Leader Applauds Algerian Muslims' Victory

LD0301162292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Emami-Kashani—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted on Koranic prayers] The point that I want to raise concisely in this sermon is the issue of the victory of the Algerian Muslims.

The Algerian Muslims had many factors acting as obstacles on their path to progress. They destroyed all these factors and succeeded. One can say that an important factor was the enemy's propaganda, the propaganda of the enemies of Islam and the West. They were engaged in propaganda against Islam, against Islamic culture, and against the Islamic revolution. They knew that Iran is the center of light. They continue to engage in propaganda. On the one hand we had the propaganda. There was also the pressure exerted on the Algerian Muslims through societies and mosques, the issue of hijab, the universities, and the suppression of the people.

The third factor was threatening society, saying: Islam cannot do anything, and if you continue your movement, you will face economic problems, military problems, and political problems—they used to say the same sort of thing to us during the time of the shah, things like: If you throw the shah out, the Russians will come in and Iran will be ruled by the Soviet Union. It fell apart itself! They used to say the same sort of thing to us.

But, despite all the threats and factors, the Algerian Muslims succeeded. We can summarize the grounds for their victory in two words. The first word is character [fetrat]. Islam. The roots are another thing: martyrdom. If we remain alive we are victorious; if we die, we are martyrs in heaven. The roots of this school, this thought, are found deep in the existence of all people. They have concealed this so that people do not hear these calls. This was the basis that moved men and women, that moved young and old. It is this basis which will one day, God willing, move the whole world. This principle will create the grounds for the rule of the lord of time. The sooner the better, God willing. [passage omitted]

Government Arrests 200 Repatriated POW's

TA0601101392 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] Following the repatriation of some POW's from Iraq several months ago, it has been revealed that the Islamic Republic's security agencies have arrested at least 200 of the POW's, including a number of military personnel, on the basis of questionnaires distributed among them.

Two of these individuals are Colonel Naser 'Araqi and Colonel Reza Aryan-Nezhad.

Political Prisoners Held in Secret Prisons

TA0601100892 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Text] According to reports, the Islamic Republic is holding some political prisoners in top-secret locations and has built two new secret prisons in Tehran for this purpose. The reports say that one of the prisons is located in the tunnels constructed during the Iran-Iraq war as shelters. One of these tunnels has been transformed into an underground prison on southern Kakh Street. Entrance to and exit from it take place through the building that housed the former prime minister's office. The other secret prison is located under the Interior Ministry building on Aryamehr Street, renamed Fatemi Street, and was built by the Guards Corps engineering unit.

It is being said in Tehran that some political prisoners were transferred to this prison during the recent visit to Tehran by Galindo Pohl, UN Human Rights Commission envoy, to prevent any contact with him.

Russian Envoy Urges Iranian Role in Gulf Security

LD0801115192 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Doha, Jan. 8, IRNA—The Russian Federation Republic supports powerful role of Iran in security and defence arrangements of the Persian Gulf region and believes Iran should be present at decision-making level on the regional security, said Russian Ambassador in Qatar Vladimir Fedyakhin here Tuesday.

Speaking to IRNA, Fedyakhin expressed hope that relation between Tehran and other regional countries will grow further and they establish cooperation at the highest level.

Fedyakhin said Tehran-Doha relations could set a pattern for other regional states.

The Russian diplomat said the future of Iran's relations with the Russian Federation Republic and the other newly declared republics is "promising".

He said Moscow is determined to expand her relations and cooperation with Tehran in all fields within the framework of mutual interests.

He said Moscow strives for establishment of peace and security in the region, prevention of conflicts in Persian Gulf and promotion of cooperation among the regional states.

On issue of Palestine, he said Russia will launch full-scale efforts to find a fair solution to the Palestinian issue and meeting the Palestinians demands including their right to self-determination.

Earlier in the day, Fedyakhin discussed Tehran-Moscow relations and cooperation with his Iranian counterpart Nasrollah Mirza'i in Doha.

Editorial Warns of Hostage-Taking, U.S. Actions

PM0701172092 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 25 Dec 91 p 2

[Unattributed editorial: "New U.S. Fireworks in the Region"]

[Text] In a world dominated by two blocs, the principle that dictates foreign policy is prevention. Based on this principle, each of the blocs and their satellites control their own actions, fearing possible reaction from the opposing bloc. Now, if one of these blocs should fall apart for any reason, it is obvious that the principle of prevention will no longer work. This also means that the remaining bloc will no longer need to exercise restraint as it did before. Of course, that will only be the case if we regard the remaining bloc as a sole and unified unit. The reality is another matter, and because of this, the destruction of one bloc will in and of itself mean the eventual destruction of the remaining bloc as well. But in the meantime, the core of the remaining bloc will find valuable time to prepare the right conditions to shape the future.

The present conditions match what was said above. The East bloc has fallen apart and the United States remains the center of the Western bloc—which itself is falling apart—and it has already made a major effort to safeguard its own superior position in tomorrow's world.

At any given time analysts and political commentators have named one area of the world as the "heart of the world." Ruling this "heart" would be necessary in order to control the rest of the world. At one time this center of attention was the Crimea, and at another time it was the Indian subcontinent. But the present time it seems that the Middle East deserves to have the title more than any other region in the world. This is the main reason why the United States is trying to increase its hold on the region.

Gaining influence in the Middle East does not at first seem too hard because there are plenty of puppet rulers to be found in the area. But the reality indicates that hidden factors are creating new obstacles in the path of U.S. domination over the area. All these obstacles have their roots in Islam, which is the official religion of the region's peoples. The history of Islamic movements in the last 100 years will no doubt be a good guide for the Americans if they wish to plan a system of control over the region. As far as they are concerned, the root of Islam and the Islamic movements which spring forth from revolutionary Islamic ideology must be removed from this area to facilitate U.S. efforts to gain a better position for itself in the future of the world. "Force" and "diplomacy" are two edges of the same sword used by the United States to remove Islam from this region.

The Americans prepared the groundwork and delivered major blows to the economic and military power in the area. Then, by signing big military and economic contracts they took these affairs into their own hands. In their next move they are now targeting the Islamic movements in order to throw them out of the arena all together. This all coincides with a major Western cultural onslaught against the Middle East in order to destroy national and Islamic ideas.

As a first step in the destruction of Islamic movements—as was announced openly by an FBI spokesman—the United States wants to identify and arrest those who took hostages in Lebanon. According to a Lebanese newspaper, Western intelligence agents, probably U.S. and British nationals, have arrived in Beirut under diplomatic cover in order to identify those elements who took and held Western hostages.

In reality, the sorts of measures being taken by the Americans are aimed not only at destroying existing Islamic movements in the region but also against any type of anti-American sentiments harbored by the Muslim masses.

There is, however, one major mistake in this presumption, one which could turn the joy at having their last hostage back home into worry and concern. The United States should realize that the struggle of the Middle Eastern people against it is not based on the political games that the United States usually plays in various places in the world. This struggle has its roots in basic human antioppression sentiments. Until such time that the United States wants to impose oppressive relations on the peoples of the region, in effect it plays the role of a bully, which means that the struggle will continue. Fierce action on the part of the United States to counter these struggles will no doubt be followed by fierce reaction from those groups that are under attack. The hostage-taking by Islamic groups in Lebanon started this way. When groups linked with the West took Iranian diplomats hostage and when Westerners started plotting against the Lebanese Muslims directly, the mutual religious feelings between those who had been taken hostage and the Islamic groups forced them to retaliate in kind. On the other hand, the cruelty meted to Muslims by the United States and other Western nations increased these reactions. How can you put a people under pressure and not expect them to react? If the American people are put in that position, what sort of reaction will they show?

As stated before, the U.S. aim is to uproot Islamic and antioppression ideology from within the Muslim masses. Otherwise the U.S. courts will have to first identify and then put on trial those groups in Lebanon who started the hostage-taking. But not only is the United States not prepared to do this, it has so far even refused to put pressure on those groups under its own command to give any reliable news on the fate of four Iranian hostages. In the meantime, the Western hostages—most of whom admitted to being spies—have all returned home.

In any case, the United States, which wants to control the "heart of the world," is about to take a dangerous step,

not against the Islamic movements, but rather against its own existence. The masses who see their own existence being destroyed by others will no doubt start thinking about the destruction of the opposing side, to be achieved at any price. One can see many examples of this type of confrontation in recent history, and as a matter of fact, the Americans have had more experience in this than any other nation.

Editorial Warns Against U.S. 'Goodwill'

NC0401122292 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 17 Dec 91 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "The United States: Which Goodwill?"]

[Text] It is normal for the United States, in its propaganda and policies, to link one problem to a totally unrelated problem in order to achieve its objectives. The United States wants to turn legal issues at the International Court of Justice in the Hague into political issues. We should confront this attempt immediately. Sometimes, however, remarks by our officials can inadvertently help move U.S. goals in this direction. Nurbakhsh, the esteemed minister of economic affairs and finance, gave an interview to BBC radio early this week during which he mentioned two points which call for further study. Nurbakhsh said that if the United States demonstrates goodwill and no other problems arise in U.S.-Iranian relations, other disputes will also be solved. The BBC reported that Nurbakhsh said: "The normalization of relations between the two countries will help solve economic problems."

Everyone in the country is free to state his personal views on political problems and decisions; however, when such remarks are made by a responsible official they take on politicoeconomic dimensions. This issue goes beyond a mere personal opinion. The problems between Iran and the United States are distinct and cannot be summed up in terms of economic and political differences. If this were the case, the resolution of such differences could have been achieved through normal methods. Iran views the United States from three distinct perspectives, each of which has its own characteristics. The first perspective is economic. In the past 13 years the United States has frozen billions of dollars of the Islamic Republic's assets and has used legal means to prevent their return to Iran. The Hague court, which convened to discuss economic and financial issues following the release of the U.S. spies held hostage [not further clarified], has been the place where financial disputes in international relations are solved. If we examine the proceedings of the hearings, however, we can see that political issues greatly influenced the court's decisions. The Americans have tried, and are continuing, to use the court for their political objectives. It was clear from the beginning that the Americans were using our domestic developments and foreign policy to delay or accelerate the process of solving financial disputes. The great propaganda efforts by the West's mass media have also attempted link the two issues. It is clear that the foreign policies which the Islamic Republic has adopted have been based on stable principles and the country's interests. This is, however, not enough. Despite the impartial and genuine nature of these policies, the conditions under which decisions are made, and the timing of such decisions, make political-propaganda exploitation possible.

Precisely when Iran was trying to solve the Lebanese hostage crisis and to take steps to increase world peace, demonstrating that through its basic stands it, Iran, opposes hostage-taking, the Hague court issued a ruling on the basis of which the United States repaid part of its debt to Iran. There is no doubt that this decision represented a success for and vindication of Iran; however, the political exploitation of the issue overshadowed all other aspects. We need to take action to allay the repercussions of this exploitation.

The second perspective is that of the problems Iran has had with United States on a country-to-country level. This angle also has a specific framework and dates back to the history of the U.S. role in Iran. Much can be said about this issue. During a 25-year period of direct and extensive influence on Iran, the United States was responsible for all the perfidy that took place here. After the Islamic Revolution, the United States continued its unrestrained hostility against Iran. It is therefore difficult to say that we will normalize relations merely to improve the economic situation. If we consider the issue merely from an economic perspective, such a move may be prudent. If we look at the issue in more depth, however, we will see that this will not be beneficial even in the economic dimension. Any combined politico-economic relationship with the United States will lead to the revival of the former economic-cultural structure because the dregs of that structure still exist. We have not yet been able to destroy the roots of this influence because we have been faced with many huge problems, and we have not had the opportunity to plan for a more favorable structure. In addition, America is trying to use these dregs to deprive us of the opportunity to change the structure.

The third perspective is extremely significant. It deals with Iran being the symbol of the Islamic Revolution and the forerunner of the awakening movement in the Islamic world and the United States as the symbol of arrogance and of everything contrary to Islam. America will never be able to show any goodwill in this framework. America is the enemy of Islam and of Muslims, and its deceitful mask should not fool us. Democracy, human rights, peace, security, stability, and calm are all tools which have been used to impose the will of the arrogant on Muslims, deprived nations, and the Third World.

The issue is not merely one of words and phrases; it is about their meaning. The important point is that by adopting a new line in its foreign policy, the United States is trying to entice Iran into entering the international scene in a framework favorable to the United States.

Iran's effective presence on the international scene is desirable and should be achieved. This presence, however, should not be accelerated by encouragement which

itself can change the very direction of that presence. We need to be more sensitive and alert to these developments now more than ever. Traps do not always have to look menacing; sometimes they may look beautiful and alluring. A wise person should always be careful.

Editorial Views Post-Gorbachev CIS Developments

NC0301173492 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Dec 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Gorbachev's Downfall, and New Concerns in Tehran"]

[Text] At the end of the very historic speech by Mikhail Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union, the flag of the socialist empire in Kremlin was lowered and wrapped up forever.

A lot has been said and written on the wide-ranging dimensions of the events in the former Soviet Union. However, from the point of view in Tehran, what is of special interest is the aftermath of the fall of Gorbachev and the Soviet Union, and its replacement with about a dozen republics, as it will affect relations with Iran.

Tehran is not happy with Gorbachev's exit from the political arena, for he is respected here as a courageous politician of realistic visions, and humanity will always be indebted to him for having dared to tear down the communist dictatorship from its innermost sanctum. Gorbachev also deserves respect for having established bilateral ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran on quite novel grounds.

But it has to be kept in mind that Tehran has to go along with the course of historical events with an "objective" outlook.

The first ground for concern from the point of view in Tehran is the lack of political stability in the newly independent republics. The unstable conditions in those republics could be serious causes of insecurity along the lengthy borders (over 2000 kilometers) Iran shares with those countries. Already foreign hands can be felt to be at work in those republics, specially in Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan republics, with the ultimte objective of brewing discord among the Iranian Azeris and Turkmens by instigating ethnic and nationalistic sentiments. And apparently Washington expects Turkey to play a dominant role in setting in motion the new nationalistic movements.

More insightful appraisal of realities will enable political leaders in Ankara to avoid being used as tools of the U.S. schemes. The disastrous efforts of Saddam Husayn who received the green light from the U.S. to instigate Arab nationalism in the southern Iran in the 80's, should serve as a warning for the Turkish leaders and make them realize that they would fall into a similar trap, if they took the same miscalculated steps.

In conclusion it should be pointed out that the newly independent Muslim republics in the former Soviet Union should be assured that the Islamic Republic of Iran, deriving its insp. tion from the Islamic ideology, will always be prepared tc lend them helping hands in all international scenes.

Pakistan

Spokesman Rejects U.S. Human Rights Allegations

BK0801042692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said that the government has taken several administrative and judicial measures to overcome the law and order problem in Sindh and that there has been no discrimination on the basis of ethnic or political affiliations in the application of these measures.

Commenting yesterday in Islamabad on the statement of Mrs. Teresita Schaffer, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, the spokesman regretted that the U.S. official has chosen to pass her judgment about Pakistan's human rights record without viewing objective conditions on the ground. The spokesman said that a distinction must be made between the measures to preserve law and order and the violations of human rights. The U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state has herself acknowledged that the Sindh problem is not new and that it has been inherited by the government. The spokesman said that legal action is being taken only against those who are involved in heinous crimes. The judiciary has been separated from the executive and is functioning independently. The entire world knows that there is complete political and press freedom in Pakistan. The spokesman expressed the hope that U.S. officials will desist from issuing statements that may unnecessarily undermine Pakistan's honor.

Air Force Seeking Spare Parts From U.S.

BK0801095492 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Jan 92 p 5

[By Aroosa Alam]

[Text] Rawalpindi, Jan 7—As the armed forces have started feeling the pinch of the stoppage of American military supplies and spares, services chiefs are paying attention for closer contacts with the US officials to get restore the supplies.

Highly placed defence sources told THE MUSLIM here on Tuesday that immediately after the return of the Army Chief from the United States, the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Farooq Feroz Khan will proceed to Washington to pursue further the requirements of the Air Force which apparently has suffered most due to aid suspension. The ten-day goodwill visit of the Air Chief is to begin from the third week of January, 1992.

Though the agenda has not been finalised but sources said the Air Marshal is likely to take up the issue

pertaining to Air Force and non-availability of spares for the US supplied F-16s. He would also take up the issue of supply of 60 F-16 which USA, under an agreement, was to supply by 1993. The supply of these 60 aircraft has remained suspended due to Pressler amendment. It is learnt that 10 percent payment in hard cash has already been made to General Dynamics, manufacturer of F-16s in this regard.

According to the sources, payments were to be made in instalments. Initial instalments were nominal but future instalments were going to be of huge amount. The cost of one F-16 is Rs [ruprees] 65 crore. Under the agreement Pakistan would be guilty of default even if it withholds a single instalment. Pakistan is bound to make payment without even knowing for sure the fate of the whole deal. Pakistan is not certain whether or not it will be able to get the delivery since the issue of aid suspension is still unresolved and no solution is yet in sight.

The Air Chief during his visit is likely to take up the matter regarding spares for Cobra helicopters which are also badly affected due to aid cut off. Pakistan has three squadron of American manufactured Cobra helicopters.

The sources maintained that not only the new spares are not being provided to Pakistan but parts sent to the USA for maintenance and overhauling before October 1990 (when aid was suspended) have also been held back. A number of agreements between USA and Pakistan were extended even beyond October 1990 but Pakistan still remained under serious difficulties regarding availability of soft and hardware spares. Agreements extended following application of the Pressler amendment included agreement for spares and repair parts and repair-replace services for recoverable components which expired on December 31, 1990 but was renewed up to December 31, 1991. It stands expired now.

The extension covered Stinger missiles systems, fire finder radars and Cobra helicopters parts. Another follow-on support in respect of another programme was also extended up to June 1991. This also remains suspended now. Flow of safe-of-flight information and equipment for Pakistan's 37 F-16, 51 T37, 12 C-130, 20 AHIF and 4 UHIs was also being maintained till last year but future of this agreement remains unknown.

Defence sources, however, are optimistic that one important aspect of the whole issue—Basic Order Agreement (BOA) has been determined not to be affected by the provisions of the Pressler amendment. This allows PAF [Pakistan Air Force] to get spare parts.

Since most of the extension agreements have expired, the sources indicated that Chief of Air Staff, during his deliberations with Pentagon at Foggy Bottom will raise the issue for the renewal of these agreements.